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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications: and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The columns of the daily press are once more filled with conflicting reports of revolutionary disturbances in Russia. We may recall the fact that much the same state of excitement prevailed some three months back when rumours were rife as to an immediate and irrevocable revolution in Russia. Meanwhile the Tsar continues to rule his people. A glance at the map will suffice to show that Odessa, Libau, and Kronstadt—the three present centres of what is being magnified into an organised mutiny of the navy—are situate at far too great distances from each other for there to be any possibility of a successfully organised amalgamation in revolt. Moreover in estimating the disloyalty of the Russian sailor, it should be borne in mind that the mutineers are practically the scum of the Russian navy, the best contingents of which, as everyone knows, had long since been dispatched to the Far East. The Social Democratic Federation has evidently been at work here as in the case of the S. Petersburg riots. The Government has dealt with an insurrectionary movement in the only manner possible; and naturally Admiral Kruger has used the most rigorous measures rather than sacrifice a battleship. That many innocent lives should have to pay the penalty was inevitable.

The more intelligent group of reform leaders continue as heretofore to hold themselves distinct and apart from all machinations of strife and disorder. The Zemstvo delegates headed by Prince Troubetskoi and Count Gudovitch in their own words are "inspired by a single-hearted desire to secure a peaceful solution of the crisis". Russia, they declare, need fear no phantom ships nor spirit of revolution, and may come through her present trials strengthened and with faith in herself and in her national stability provided that ruler and ruled can come to a speedy mutual understanding. The Emperor has met this memorial with sympathy, and the Bouliuguine scheme for a representative assembly as revised by the council of ministers is

to be laid before him forthwith. The extreme Liberal party is attempting of course to discount the value of this scheme, which though greatly modified is said still to contain certain serious defects. At the last moment M. Shipof seems to have been offered the Ministry of the Interior, a most significant move.

The continued history of the "Kniaz Potemkin" makes quite a travesty of revolution. She might be directed by the three musketeers rather than the fabled "band of seven controlled by a civilian with a long beard". At the end of last week the vessel, with the red flag of revolution hoisted, sailed through a cordon of Russian ships. She was momentarily joined by a colleague, the "Georgei Pobiedonostets", which however would not support the character. She has since passed unchallenged close to the fleet at Sevastopol. With the dignified attitude of an armada she has issued a manifesto generously promising to respect the shipping of the nations and has declared war on Russia. She has appeared in many unexpected places: first off the Roumanian port of Constanza where she faced her first fire. Next she terrorised the poor people of Theodosia, and extracted provisions, with the loss of two men. Her latest exploit has been to impound the Russian vessel "Grand Duke Alexis" with a cargo of cattle designed for the fleet at Sevastopol. But her life is likely to be "a crowded hour." She can scarcely live long without coal, which is hard to come by, and to escape from the Black Sea she must run the gauntlet of Turkish guns, a risk which might not perhaps be fatal.

The names of the peace plenipotentiaries were officially announced in New York at the end of last week: M. Muravieff and Baron Rosen for Russia; Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira for Japan. Their assessors, among whom is M. Pokotiloff the Russian Minister in Pekin, have also been appointed, and it is expected that a preliminary meeting will be held in Washington in the early days of August, before adjourning to some place less desolate and intolerable than this cenotaph of a city during the heat of summer. It is generally presumed that Mr. Roosevelt is still anxious that a truce should be arranged during the conference. It would be something worse than lamentable if a superfluous battle were fought in Manchuria, but Japanese statesmen must of course look first to the ultimate results for Japan. The hope of an armistice lies rather in the likelihood of Marshal Oyama

considering that some delay would not be greatly to his disadvantage.

The terms of the note handed by Prince Radolin to M. Rouvier on Saturday are not likely to be accurate in the tabulated form in which they have been published and accepted; but the difficulties in the way of the conference may be considered smoothed. Even if the five points that Prince Radolin is supposed to have conceded are accurately reported by the "Petit Parisien", they do not amount to a great deal more than an acknowledgment from Germany that she does not wish to take a high hand. No European conference would wish to destroy the integrity of the Moorish Empire or to upset the sovereignty of the Sultan, and so far as France in particular is concerned, a conference does not entail more loss of dignity than individual competition with Germany.

English newspapers have apparently received no information about a most significant incident which has arisen in connexion with the protectorate of Catholics in the Near East. The Capucin church in the Grande Rue de Pera, which has for long been an obstruction in the street, is being very properly demolished and its owners are, also very properly, demanding compensation from the Turkish authorities. On M. Constans the French Ambassador declining to act on their behalf, the monks asked him if France had any objection to the Italian Ambassador taking up their case, to which the reply was "None at all", and the same reply was given to a further request that the Italian Government might act for the order throughout Turkey. M. Constans must follow the instructions of his Government, but the piquancy of the situation is increased by the substitution of Italy for France as protector of a religious order, and still further by the fact that the French Ambassador at Constantinople must be a good Catholic in Turkey while at home it is as much as his future is worth to enter a church, and this applies to all Republican officials.

Lord Selborne is to be congratulated upon his admirable use of the opportunity of clearing the air which was presented to him by the joint deputation of Het Volk and the Responsible Government Association on Tuesday. But the confession that he extracted and the answer he gave are a less useful service than the exquisite fitness of the misunderstanding which caused the proceedings of the deputation to be made public. Six months ago the two deputations were received by Lord Milner on the same day at Johannesburg. Both were concerned with the New Constitution. The first came from the Responsible Government Association and the second from the Transvaal Progressive Association. The Responsibles were asked whether they wished the proceedings of their deputation to be regarded as public or private. They replied "private"; and the press was accordingly excluded on this occasion. None the less an account of what had happened was made to the press the same day by a member of the deputation.

In the case of Tuesday's deputation a similar change of plan was rendered impossible by a misunderstanding on the part of the High Commissioner. In the excellent report cabled by the "Times" correspondent we read that Lord Selborne "expressed regret for the misunderstanding with regard to the publicity of the deputation, but in view of the subject he did not regret that he had misinterpreted the wishes of the two parties". Knowing what we do of the hesitancy—to use a kindly word—of the methods both of the Responsible Government Association and of their Boer associates, we have no doubt that Lord Selborne had ample justification for failing to grasp the real wishes of the deputation.

The publicity of Mr. Solomon's sentiments was the more valuable in view of the public meeting of Het Volk who assembled in Congress at Pretoria on the following days. The text of their discussion was much the same as Dr. Smuts and Mr. Solomon had taken before Lord Selborne, and his reply was complete. It was the business of the Transvaal Executive to carry out the constitution in the form in which they found it, subject to the decision of the Supreme

Court on matters of interpretation. In consequence the chief accomplishment of the representatives of Het Volk amounted to an announcement from the Head Committee that they had failed to decide whether they would advise the "people" to vote, or abstain from voting, under the New Constitution; although the Congress was summoned for the very purpose of deciding this point.

Perhaps no American politician was ever better liked abroad than Mr. John Hay; and his death, which occurred suddenly on Saturday, leaves America without any foreign minister capable of filling his place. He was of course best known in England and the beautiful memorial service in St. Paul's on Wednesday expressed the sense of loss as no other tribute could. As a politician he did his most distinguished services in the East and his value to the United States consisted before all else in his management of relations with China. The white man's "burden" has not among the Chinese the usual American interpretation; and it was all to the good of the United States that in taking it up they had a man superior to the run of his predecessors. There is a lack of grace in Col. Hay's successor being a politician who on a marked occasion took up an attitude at the least not friendly to this country. Mr. Root was one of the American members of the Alaska Commission who proclaimed from the housetops his resolve not to give up an iota of the American demands before ever the Commission even began its inquiry. Mr. Root was one of the "impartial jurists" selected by Mr. Roosevelt according to the terms of the treaty.

At home the papers have been very explicit about the Redistribution resolutions to be introduced by Mr. Balfour. No doubt it is easier to be explicit when you know nothing than when you know a little. It is very unlikely that more than three or four men in the whole country had seen the draft resolutions at the time these papers were expounding them. The Prime Minister, Mr. Gerald Balfour, Sir Alexander Acland Hood, and, of course, the draftsman were probably the only persons in a position to discuss the terms of these resolutions. We prefer to wait until we see them. It is, no doubt, common knowledge that Mr. Balfour "means business" and will try to make the redistribution move, unlike the Unemployed Bill, something more than hollow form. If it is a genuine redistribution scheme on a comprehensive scale, a case can be made for it.

The effect of the closure resolution on the Aliens Bill, which was moved by Mr. Balfour on Wednesday and passed, is that on 19 July the bill will be before the House for third reading. Committee stage will be brought to a conclusion next Tuesday. It is quite plain that the closure had to be resorted to if the bill and the other business of the Government were to be got through in the short time that remains of the session; and at any rate it could not be sacrificed and allowed to share the fate of the Unemployed Bill, which is to be abandoned. There were in the course of the debate the usual recriminations as to who are responsible for the conditions which make closure resolutions absolutely necessary. Both Mr. Balfour and Sir Henry were in a most conciliatory mood.

As if to emphasise Mr. Balfour's point as to the keenness of the fighting party spirit which lands every Government in artificial difficulties prepared for them by the Opposition, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. Redmond promptly discovered that Mr. Balfour could only have been thinking of devolution. We need not say anything about the ingenuity which discovered Home Rule in the closure resolution on the Aliens Bill. But Sir Henry made one remark at least which was relevant to the bill. He declared that the bill is not only dangerous and unsound but absolutely unworkable, and therefore that it cannot even do the mischief which otherwise he would expect of it. In that case we may wonder why Sir Charles Dilke should have been so distressed because the numerous amendments as to political and religious refugees will be inadequately discussed. The closure saves Sir Charles from wasting his time on flogging a dead horse, if Sir Henry were correct.

Girded at by Mr. Winston Churchill on Tuesday for treating Parliament with contempt, Mr. Balfour admitted that he could not say that he was never tempted to regard any individual in the House with contempt. There is not much doubt as to the member against whom this periphrasis was aimed. But is it a fact that Mr. Churchill sat reproved? To judge by much outside comment it is a terrible thing for a private M.P., especially a young M.P. to be reproved or attacked by a party leader. This is the theory: in practice the young M.P., if pushing and ambitious, longs to be attacked. We have heard a Scotch Radical M.P., prominent enough now in the House, say with all sincerity "I wish to goodness Chamberlain or Balfour would attack me". If a parliamentarian really smarts and suffers under the party leader's lash, he is surely paste not diamond. The way the expert recognises the diamond is not by its flash and glitter, for paste may be as brilliant as any diamond, but by its hardness. So perhaps with politicians. Mr. Churchill certainly has the flash of the brilliant. The experts in the Press Gallery have apparently made up their minds that he has not its hardness.

The career of the Unemployed Bill is a splendid sarcasm on Parliamentary practice. The Bill passed its second reading by an overwhelming majority. The innocent onlooker might suppose this meant it had general support in the House, and so was likely to have a prosperous passage. Not at all; this great majority was obtained only because those who voted for the Bill were persuaded it had no chance of getting any further. What a splendid tribute to Parliamentary uprightness! How this sort of thing raises the dignity of the House. We are sorry to have to say it, but it is impossible to believe the Government ever intended to pass this, the most really beneficial measure of the session. This is mere political trickery, and those who are guilty will have to suffer for it. Working-men would be fools if they did not remember this; but there is no fear of their forgetting it. A reservation should be made in favour of Mr. Long, whose part in the business we believe to have been perfectly honest all through and the result of genuine conviction.

The discussion by the House of Commons on the Scottish Churches Bill occupied much of the time of the House this week—far too much. So far as Scotland goes the big M.P. battalions are on the side of the United Frees and the Government proposals were received with guarded satisfaction. On Clause 5 (the clause relating to the Established Kirk) "surgit amari aliquid" as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman put it. In the opposition to the clause may be discerned the double hand of the Liberation Society and the Church Association. Mr. Bryce as the historian of the Opposition was put up however to give a philosophical justification. The justification came to this, that no Protestant established Church in the world has power to alter its confession without the consent of the State. In the same way we would remind Mr. Bryce no trustee can revolutionise his trust without the consent of Parliament. If Parliament chooses to revolutionise trusts, we know not why antiquated confessions of faith enshrined in Acts of Parliament should be held more sacred.

Mr. Austin Taylor came to Mr. Bryce's assistance and stood up for formularies of subscription, acts of uniformity, and other old-world schemes of religious persecution. We wonder whether any of the progressive gentlemen (as they think themselves) who cheered his old-world fanaticism are aware that Benjamin Jowett considered the Acts of Uniformity one of the greatest misfortunes that ever befell England.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman made a remark in this debate which showed him to be either ignorant of the function of a judge or a plain advocate of judicial dishonesty. He regretted that the House of Lords in deciding the legal question between the Free Church and the United Free Church had not had more regard to the social and religious consequences which would

follow from their decision. That is he imputes to judges as a fault what is the highest merit of the Judicial Bench—to decide cases without fear or favour on strictly legal grounds. Does Sir Henry not remember that the great objection taken by the Opposition to the House of Lords' decision in the great trade-union case of the Taff Vale Railway, which made the unions responsible, was that the judges had not decided according to law but according to their view of what the law ought to be? That was a perfectly just objection and there was too much reason to suspect that it was well found. Yet if that was the wrong principle in a trade-union case, how could it be a right one for the Scottish Churches?

Mr. Grant Lawson, the new Chairman of Committees, is evidently resolved not to send for the police whilst he can secure his objects by other means. A ludicrous habit of not leaving the Chamber when a division is called has of late become popular with a few inefficient dabblers in obstruction. This, with an occasional catcall from the quarter where Mr. Swift McNeill sits, practically alone remains of the dreaded machinery of obstruction which Mr. Parnell, Mr. Biggar and others invented and perfected. But we doubt whether Mr. Grant Lawson will make a name for firmness, fairness and decision by trying to coax these few make-believe obstructionists with blarney. He asked members to leave the chamber one day last week "just to oblige" the Chairman. One of them replied yes he would go "just to oblige" Mr. Lawson, quite a personal affair! We have never heard that the House of Commons rules were made for the personal gratification and comfort of the Chairman.

The Militia debate in the House of Lords ended, like most of those raised by the Duke of Bedford, in a somewhat pointless and inconclusive fashion. There can be no question that the state of the Militia is very far from satisfactory, and that, had no other considerations to be taken into account, a return to the old system of making the Militia independent of the line and the War Office would be an advantage. But unfortunately for the Militia it is a fruitful recruiting ground for the line both in officers and men, which would suffer considerably were the two forces entirely separated. A war secretary is of course bound to regard the question from a larger standpoint than the champions of the Militia would desire; and he has to consider whether an increase of Militia efficiency, obtained at the cost of the line, would be a national gain. The present Secretary of State, like his predecessors, has come to the conclusion that it would not be; and his successors will certainly follow his example.

The Volunteers also have come in for a considerable share of attention during the past week; and the circular letter to Volunteer commanding officers has caused a veritable panic. It is interesting to find pronounced "blue water" enthusiasts anxiously questioning the War Secretary on the subject. Yet the project of improving the Volunteers out of existence is only the logical outcome of the "blue water" theories. Hitherto we have supported Mr. Arnold-Forster in the policy which he has adopted towards the auxiliary forces. But the test of fitness "to take the field" in the case of the Volunteers is perhaps a little severe. To be a first-class shot, and possess the physique of a man of nineteen—not to speak of the other qualifications—is a much higher test than is considered necessary in the case of the regular soldiers of our own or any other army.

The Bill of the London and District Electric Power Company was allowed to be read a second time in the House of Commons on Thursday. Mr. Bonar Law spoke on behalf of the Board of Trade, and though he pointed out that this was not a Government question, he virtually made it a Government question by his way of treating it. He defended the bill on the ground that it would cheapen electric supply and maintained that the pecuniary interests of the shareholders in the present companies were safeguarded. But he really evaded the argument against the bill on public grounds. Mr. Bryce dealt with the real point

much more seriously when he said that a bill involving such general interests ought to have been entrusted not to an ordinary Bill Committee but to a Commission similar to that which had investigated the subject of the London traffic.

The presence of the King and Queen at the Southwark ceremony of last Monday has added a new historical memory to the fair church that in olden days men knew as S. Mary over the water (S. Mary Overie) and in later times as S. Saviour's Southwark, and has helped us to realise that South London has at last both a cathedral and a bishop. If to the statesmen and theologians of the See of Winchester the cathedral by the river owes some of its proudest glories, it draws an even fairer fame from its associations with poetry. The poets' connexion with the Abbey has chiefly commenced after their deaths; here in Southwark, in the scenes that recall the Canterbury Tales and Bartholomew's Fair, some of the greatest of them have lived and worshipped. To gaze on the Shakespeare window is to reflect that on church land hard by S. Saviour's the Elizabethan drama found a refuge when Puritan fanaticism expelled it from the City.

We congratulate the readers of "Punch" on the capital number that should be in store for them next Wednesday. Nothing could be more fitted to "Punch" than the series of jokes which Mr. Justice Darling got off in the case of Thomas v. Bradbury & Co. and Another on Wednesday and Thursday. "Punch" has now and then been suspected by experts of a jocosity of chestnuts. Mr. Justice Darling's jokes were at least not obnoxious to this charge. No man would think of claiming one of them as his own. The most brilliant perhaps referred to Mr. Gladstone. Somebody remarked that Mr. Gladstone was deficient in the sense of humour—could not see a joke. If he had been able to, said the learned judge, he would not have left the Conservative party. He was almost as funny on the etiquette of journalists. When a captain in the army and a colonel meet, it is the captain, he explained, who salutes. He could not say what was the custom when two journalists met. A third sally was "when Mr. Gladstone spoke it was generally at considerable length". It is staggering that people should laugh at such things: they had more reason to cry over them.

The case showed "Punch" in quite a new light. One had supposed it to be a comic paper. The jury, however, took it as a journal of serious literary criticism. Mr. Lucy wrote a review of Mr. Moy Thomas' book on Sir John Robinson a former manager of the "Daily News". He attacked Mr. Thomas severely and personally, one of his motives being, so he explained, to give a lift to "a struggling journalist". It was evidently quite disinterested. Here was no case of log-rolling a friend, for Mr. Lucy did not know Mr. Thomas, not being in his "sphere". The two were worlds apart, we gather from this, though they were both "on" the "Daily News". To assist a brother journalist by criticising his work severely was a paradox which the jury did not appreciate. Hence their verdict for the plaintiff with damages of three hundred pounds. Mr. Lucy would be wise in future to let "struggling journalists" and their work alone. We suggest to him instead such themes as the kumberbunds and white duck trousers and orchids of M.P.s; and all the pleasing pap of Parliament.

A curious little group of coincidences marked the third match against the Australians. Jackson declared the second innings at the same minute of the day and the same number of wickets had still to fall as at Nottingham; and the Australians were again left with just 402 runs to get. The slowness of scoring was again due to inability to hit Armstrong's leg bowling. We grant that designed leg bowling of Armstrong's quality with a field well placed is difficult to hit safely, but we should like to see Armstrong bowl it in village cricket. In a week of many sporting events even the Gordon-Bennett race has been claimed as a British success because three British representatives finished. The distinction does not strike us as great. M. Théry again won for France and is certainly the finest driver living.

"THE FUTILE PLACE."

"WHAT a futile place this is!" The House of Commons is the place and, if we are to believe Mr. Lloyd-George, every new member of the House is the speaker. Apparently the first impression the House makes on a recruit full of energy and fresh from the world's business is its idleness; not its indolence, for it has little leisure and less repose. But gradually the new member becomes acclimatised and the sense of futility wears off. Mr. Lloyd-George, we should say, has observed well; possibly he even knows himself. But surely he chose an exceedingly inapt occasion for the delivery of these parliamentary moralities; for if there is an occasion when the House is really engaged in furthering business, it is when it is considering the application of the closure guillotine. That process, whatever may be said against it, cannot be described as futile. It at any rate attains its object and enables business to be done. True Mr. Lloyd-George, as every other member in opposition, does not want business to be done and so a proceeding which drastically expedites the passage of a bill seems to him as futile as the rest of the business of the House: in fact rather more so, for it seriously diminishes his own private share in the general futility. If Mr. Lloyd-George is not to be allowed to speak, what is there left to the House at all? And we must admit that the effect of a guillotine proposal is truly enough to put the House in a dilemma perfectly hopeless from the point of view of parliamentary theory. It cannot be gainsaid that the business of a deliberative assembly is to deliberate, that is to say, to make speeches; and it is the business of a legislative assembly to legislate. How sad that the one function cannot be performed except at the expense of the other. It is this dilemma, from which there is really no escape, which on every occasion of this kind enables each side to make such a very good case for itself and against the other. Both sides of course know perfectly well that they are tilting at nothing, and that if they want to get out of the impasse they must attack the parliamentary system and not each other, since all are equally the victims of a bad machine.

In fact we are reduced to a choice between the scandal of a House of Commons that does no business and the farce of a deliberative assembly that passes bills which it has never discussed. The public has never been in any doubt as to which it prefers. It rather enjoys the farce, but it will not put up with the scandal. Every electioneer, no matter of what party in politics, knows perfectly well that it is useless to attempt to make any capital out of the indignity of the closure or the plundering of private members' privileges and time. The only difference between other leaders of the House and Mr. Balfour, whom Liberal journalists would make responsible for all this mischief, is that he has realised, as others have not, the much smaller place the House of Commons has necessarily come to occupy in the national system than it used to do. It is not he that has made the change; but he has observed that the change has been made and has taken account of it. It is only a shallow thinker that would put down to the momentary action of the leader for the time being the transposition of the attitude in which the executive and the deliberative assembly stand to one another. Mr. Balfour has very likely used the closure, guillotine and ordinary, with less diffidence than his predecessors. He is not so careful as was Disraeli and Mr. Smith to be present during debate. He does not pay all the solemn attention of old days to a vote of the House of Commons; and he does not hesitate practically to absorb in the Government all initiative in legislation. Put shortly, he lets it plainly be seen that he realises that the executive side of his office is the more important, and that he cares more for public opinion than for the opinion of the House. But do those who charge him with lowering the prestige of the House and weakening its influence really suppose that Mr. Balfour, or any other minister, would indulge in a more autocratic treatment of the assembly if public opinion were not on his side? If the public were very jealous of the rights of the House and greatly valued its debates, do they, does the "Westminster

Gazette" for instance, think that any minister could have kept in power for ten years, who displayed through the whole period decidedly less than the old-fashioned religious veneration for the mother of Parliaments? If Mr. Balfour were the seat of this change in regard, and not the whole country, there could not be a better cry on which to raise the country against him. But in fact it is not raised except in the House. Those very successful campaigners on the Liberal side have allowed Mr. Balfour's brutal treatment of the House of Commons to remain very much in the background. We have never heard that Mr. Buxton found the woes of the House a persuasive plea to put before the field labourers in the villages of the Whitby division, or that Mr. Baker found this cry to tell very strikingly with the artisans of East Finsbury. Not at all: this talk about flouting the House of Commons is insincere in the extreme. Those who indulge in it, if they are not merely repeating it from the lips of others, know well enough that the House has declined in influence from causes no minister can control; still less create. It has declined chiefly because the public that takes an interest in politics is able to form its own opinion without going to the House either for information or for a lead. More highly developed organisation has brought the electorate more closely in touch with the party leaders. It is the leaders the voters care for; their local member is less significant to them than he used to be. And platform oratory has increased so much that nearly everyone has an opportunity from time to time to hear his favourite leader or his celebrated opponent. In every way the debates in the House cannot be so much to the country as they have been in time past.

Two other less obvious processes have also been at work all the time to depress the House in importance; imperialism and municipalism. Concentration of interest on international issues and on the various greater events that affect the whole British people has thrown into the shade numberless questions that occupy the time of the House. Partly from a higher patriotism, partly from the enhanced power of the executive, foreign affairs are not the subject of contentious debate to nearly the same extent that they once were. The people are quite able to perceive that the House of Commons has not a very great influence on foreign policy, and concern with the House is proportionately diminished. The House is of course, by means of answers to questions, still the medium for important official information but not so much so as it was. Take a practical test: when there is a great international crisis, do the newspapers find it necessary to lengthen their House of Commons reports? does the reader turn immediately to "Imperial Parliament"? We venture to say that in times of excitement "Imperial Parliament" comes quite late in his reading. How did it affect matters that the House of Commons was not sitting at the time of the North Sea incident? Probably the Government would have found it less easy to steer the country through a time of excitement had the House been in session, and that is the only difference it would have made. It is frequently said, not by politicians of one party alone, that our Parliament is not a suitable machine to govern an empire; and the public takes note of the suggestion.

The other process we referred to, municipalism, turns attention off the House of Commons because it is itself one amongst other manifestations of the steady substitution of economic for political interest in the public mind. The working classes have ceased to take a living interest in political machinery: questions of franchise and privilege will never again excite them as they have done in the past. They are too much intent on matters that affect their daily living. These questions are largely in the hands of municipal bodies, which accordingly divert a certain interest that once was centred in the House of Commons.

In every way it seems to us easy to account for the less imposing figure made by Parliament in these days. There is no need to attribute this to irrelevant causes; such as personal degeneracy of the members. That is an absolute illusion. In intelligence and manners present members of the House are not at all inferior to most of their predecessors; nor is the general conduct

of the Chamber as a whole. Members do not now as a common practice whistle and suck oranges during a debate. It is even more unintelligent to attribute a long political process like the change in the position of the House to the action of a single man. Mr. Balfour, so far from lowering or weakening the House, has done a good deal to lessen its incompatibility with changed environment. It is only such expedients as a bold use of the closure that reconcile the public at all to the patent defects of the House as a machine for government. Mr. Balfour has done much to save the House from itself; and we have no doubt that Liberals in their turn will pursue the process of salvation with alacrity.

BEHIND THE VEIL IN MANCHURIA.

THE lull which has preceded every heavy blow dealt by Oyama now hangs over the theatre of operations in Manchuria. So little authentic information has penetrated the veil that shrouds the rival positions and movements that, as we write, the air is full of various and even conflicting theories as to what is taking place, each however being quite logically supported by those who put it forward. Some imagine that Oyama may be executing a great march round one or both of his opponent's flanks and that when the curtain is next run up, the play will develop from the standpoint of a complete surrounding of Linievitch. We shall have to touch on this aspect of the case again but will leave it for the present to glance at the next theory that Vladivostok is to be the new main objective. Then there is another view that we shall see the history of the past campaign repeating itself, and Linievitch assailed in front or on either flank, after the manner of Mukden or Liaoyang. Whatever it portends, this ominous stillness in the roar of battle has to be accounted for, and we think the right explanation is to be found in the difficulties of transport in a country so comparatively little civilised as Manchuria. The Japanese are probably endeavouring to extend their tentacles round every side of their huge opponent. But to do so, when such hosts as those in question are concerned, implies the collection and organisation of transport and supply on a scale that civilians and even soldiers accustomed to reckon with the British army can scarcely grasp. Six armies each of 100,000 men are wielded by Oyama. An army of 50,000 men has often accomplished the deeds that have laid the principles of military science for us. And this brings us to another point. Frederick won Rossbach with 22,000 men, 32,000 Prussians gave him the laurels of Zorndorf. There were less than 30,000 Frenchmen on the field of Marengo under Napoleon, and less than 50,000 men won Magenta for the nephew of the Great Emperor. It would be tedious to labour the point further, but a glance backwards will show that many of the resounding victories of the world were the results of the collisions between forces that would now in the Far East be looked upon as mere detachments.

Not only were the forces smaller formerly but they were present in a highly concentrated form. Dense columns, or closely packed lines, economised space. A general could lay his hand on the units he needed in a moment, personal communication was quite possible. Now those who have girded at Japanese and Russians alike for not displaying a greater manœuvring power in this war seem to us to have overlooked the conditions of the struggle. It is stated, and very truly stated, that a passive defence can end in nothing but eventual disaster. An army which simply digs itself in and awaits attack has already tasted half the bitterness of defeat before a shot is fired. All this is a truism, but lends no argument to those profound critics who are always calling for attacks, pursuits, manœuvres, alarms, excursions, and all the old properties of the pedants for application in Manchuria just as though we were back in the old days of small armies and dynastic wars on the highly cultivated plains of Europe. Napoleon himself said that tactics change every ten years, and a good many decades have floated down the river since he said it. Therefore deductions which are based on his experiences or

on those of the great warriors who were his immediate predecessors or contemporaries should be cautiously applied to the greatly altered circumstances of the present day. Speaking after the event, and still in comparative ignorance of how the situation was presented to him on each occasion, we have not failed to point out that the Japanese victories have not had the decisive results that characterised some of the more celebrated of the last century. We have as yet had no Waterloo, nor Vittoria. The proportion of guns captured has been small. The Russians have always rallied in a remarkably short time. This may be due to a certain tone of methodical procedure on the part of the Japanese—a congenital defect due to their Oriental birth which has cast a kind of apathy over them at moments when nervous energy was most needed. They may have disliked taking risks, and have not won as largely as they might, because they have set less on the hazard of the die than those of more ardent and impulsive temperaments would have done. Frankly we do not know as yet whether this is so or not.

We shall some day be able to judge when a complete and scientific record of this war has been written. But we can assert with certainty that much of what has been said of late has not been altogether carefully thought out or well considered. The retaining power of the modern rifle, the enhanced accuracy and greater range of modern artillery, the appearance everywhere of the telegraph in the theatre of operations and on the field of battle are factors that have not been allowed for by those who measure Oyama with Napoleon. Each and all these modern factors in war alike necessitate and facilitate the distances that separate friend and foe in action. It is a long process to concentrate and get under movement units whose members are scattered like the pearls of a broken necklace. When the movement is at length initiated, it may have become suspected and prepared against. In any case the turning movement will have to struggle over wide distances to avoid the observation or molestation of the enemy, and when the attack is delivered its effect cannot be produced after the fashion of a time when shock tactics over narrow spaces of ground were still possible. Owing to modern tactical developments the whole art of fighting a battle has become very much more difficult, and there is less room for the display of such soldierlike qualities as courage, energy, quickness of sight, and knowledge of ground on the part of the supreme leader than there was formerly. We must think of these things, we must remember that we are in the twentieth century and not in the eighteenth when we measure Oyama and Kuropatkin with the victors of Leuthen or Salamanca. When moreover to the enormous distances we add the vast numbers of men massed, we may well pause ere we criticise. Can 400,000 men, not to say 500,000 or 600,000, on fronts which are to be measured by tens and may well stretch to hundreds of miles, be handled with the same facility as though they were divisions, or even corps d'armée, strung out at a tenth of these distances? In a barren country will the practice of living on the resources of the soil carry a host of 200,000 men very far? When there are few roads and no railways can the voracious maw of the modern firearm be fed many miles from a dépôt which has to be prepared beforehand? When even the Bushido of the Japanese cannot wring victory from the stubborn Russian in as many days as were formerly represented by hours, can the same confident calculations as to the hour and spot where the blow is to fall be made? It was a fine deed to "defeat forty thousand men in forty minutes" a century ago, but then a verbal order and gesticulation were all that were necessary to launch the thunderbolt. The men who have thought most deeply on modern war, as for example Home, were right in their forecast, and far more accurate in their prognostications than some of those who are now in fashion. The lessons of the big encounters of the Franco-German War are now proving themselves true. The widely extended front of battle, the determined onslaught all along its length, the slow envelopment of one or both flanks, the gradual tightening in of the encircling cord, the series of isolated struggles all over the field, and the ultimate victory gained rather by persistent pres-

sure, and long-drawn-out effort, than by any sudden, brilliant, or spasmodic blow, are there as it was said they would be. Strategically and tactically it is the same. The distances are so vast, communications so bad, transport so scarce, that the strategic effort must also be a carefully prepared, methodical procedure rather than a bold stroke of genius carried through by the adventitious aids of the moment, or improvisations within the bounds of energy and vigour. When the mist rolls away and we next see the military landscape in Manchuria stretched out before us, we shall find the results once more of a methodical and businesslike method of action on the part of the attack. What the defence will have to show besides earthworks is more problematic, for the Russian seems forbidden to go back. To yield ground, give up Vladivostok, and let time and space fight for him, would be an intelligible policy; to stand still and let himself be surrounded is mere madness. That Linievitch will act on the offensive-defensive, receive an attack and deliver a crushing counterstroke, is scarcely probable. A concentrated army of large size moves so slowly and meets with such resistance when it attacks a force of one-half or one-third its size that it cannot defeat a portion of an equally large or larger opposing army before that army can be reinforced by other parts of it. This is the factor in modern war which few of those who have discussed the present campaign have taken account of. Has Linievitch taken account of it?

THE FRENCH SEPARATION CAMPAIGN.

ON Monday at midnight—"the hour of crime"—the French Parliament voted the text of the revised Bill for the Separation of the Churches from the State—whereby the Republic lightly endorsed an act of the weightiest consequence, not only to France herself, but also to the rest of Europe. It would, however, be premature to say that the Bill is "passed," or that the separation is accomplished: for it will have to go before the Senate, where its passage may be obstructed for a very long time, during which the General Election (which is within sight) may overthrow the whole scheme, since it is not as popular as the Socialists, Radicals, Atheists, and their chief organ, "La Lanterne," intend the uninitiated to believe. Four million eight hundred and seventy-two thousand persons, all of them over twenty-one years of age, have already signed a petition against the Bill; and, as "Le Temps" observes, the Catholics may, in due course, turn the scale at the future election, and a Moderate, if not exactly a Catholic, majority replace the present anticlerical Bloc. Once returned to even a modified degree of power, the Opposition might follow the methods of M. Combes's all-too-famous majority and vote unreasoningly yet steadily, as bidden by its leaders, and with surprising results.

But we will for the sake of argument consider the Bill as passed, and the Churches as absolutely separated from the State, as M. Aristide Briand or even M. Combes would desire; what then? The Church will not be killed by this measure, and the "human conscience", to quote M. Bienvenu Martin, will not therefore be any the more "emancipated". Unfortunately French Socialism, by allying itself with atheism, has sown noxious weeds in its own political garden, and anticlericalism is beginning to prove an undesirable growth even to an ultra-Radical Republic. When, a fortnight ago, France suddenly realised that she was within sight of a war with her ancient foe on the other side of the Rhine, a thrill of terror passed over the land at the mere thought that whilst engrossed in the specious work of dechristianising the nation and hustling monks and nuns up and down the country, the politicians in power had demoralised the army, neglected the navy, and left the frontiers almost entirely unprotected. Things have quieted down since then, but, none the less, there is a feeling of unrest abroad which makes thinking people dread the passage of a law that may eventually lead to internal divisions and disorders even more serious than those which agitate France at the present time. True, the Bill as it

stands has been considerably modified in a liberal sense, and there now appears little danger of the cathedrals and churches being seized and converted into music-halls and meeting-houses, and even the religious processions are not to be abolished. But the Bishops and priests will be subjected to a very strict police supervision, and laws admirably framed to silence them, should they say a word likely to offend their Prefect or their Mayor, are already existent. "La Lanterne" intimates that "it only accepts the Bill as it stands as a preliminary; we must silence the priests, and prevent them, even in their pulpits, from infusing any more of the virus of religion into the minds of the people. For if we do not kill the Church, the Church will kill the Republic". Evidently "La Lanterne" sees a rock ahead which the over-eager deputies who sit on the Left and the Extreme Left have overlooked. Surely when the clergy are no longer paid by the State and have to pay the same taxes as other citizens, it would be monstrous to prevent their freely expressing their political opinions, however opposed these may be to those of the majority temporarily in power. So long as they were paid by the State, the State had a right to complain if a salaried clergy opposed its will. If the Bill is finally passed, it will be different; and though, for a year or so, the more independent and outspoken of the Bishops and clergy may be hunted down and even imprisoned, the day will come when the Republic, wearied by their resistance and, possibly, alarmed at their increasing popularity, will have to realise that she has created a new and (from her point of view) a very perilous party—an emancipated episcopate and clergy. No longer Erastian, these will presently prove a formidable barrier to the darling projects of a Government which sees in Christianity the chief enemy of Progress and humanitarianism—ignoring that both are the offspring of that very teaching that they are seeking to destroy by every means at their disposal.

The outlook for religion in France is distinctly ominous just now, but it is by no means hopeless. Human affairs are much influenced by action and reaction, and probably the climax of anti-clericalism, rather than of anti-religion, in France was reached last Monday night. We may be on the eve of a powerful reaction that will undo the nefarious work of the Bloc, and this much sooner than is generally imagined. The extraordinary conspiracy of silence on this momentous matter in the English press is doubtless due to the fact that English Christians and gentlemen are usually considered unfit to represent English newspapers on the Continent. The Paris correspondents of our leading journals, being nearly all of them men of Oriental extraction, cannot, however honourable and enlightened, be expected to entertain any particular interest in the fate of the Christian religion. We are invariably led by these gentlemen to believe that all is for the best in the best of Republics. The unanimous protests of the Archbishops and Bishops have been barely alluded to, and most Englishmen believe that the French Episcopacy is more or less indifferent to the Separation Bill, whereas in reality it has already vehemently protested against all the innumerable arbitrary acts of the present Government, and this not only by individual pastorals addressed to their respective flocks, but in a joint note endorsing the powerful letter written some time ago by the aged Cardinal Archbishop of Paris to President Loubet, a letter which, by the way, that gentleman never answered. Then again we hear nothing of the countless meetings which are being held in every city, town, and village, at which the anti-religious policy of the Government is severely attacked and violently condemned. It was mainly because the deputies witnessed such meetings during the recent vacation that they personally realised the danger to which they were exposing their chances of re-election by their excessive anti-clericalism, and, therefore, they introduced several modifying clauses into the Bill, which, as it now stands, is much milder than it was when first presented to the Chamber. The churches, for instance, are not likely to be closed for some time to come, and the "baneful processions", as a republican journal expresses it, "in which figure so conspicuously the images of the Infamous One and of his vile Mother",

are still to be tolerated, always provided the Prefect or the Mayor proves obliging and conciliatory.

On the whole to a thinking foreigner the spectacle presented by contemporary France is an amazing one. Here is a great nation, which for sixteen hundred years has proclaimed herself the "eldest daughter of the Church", renouncing her great position as protector of the Catholics in the East and breaking off her official connection with the Vatican, at a time when Germany is menacing her and proclaiming at Metz of all places in the world, her Imperial wish to become more and more friendly with the head of that Church of which France has so long been the natural ally! Surely a great statesman would have considered the present an ill-chosen time to quarrel with the Papacy, when by a more conciliatory policy an Ambassador could have been retained at the Vatican, if only to keep an eye on the manœuvres of the Triple Allies.

INCOME-TAX ADMINISTRATION.

THE Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the close of the last session to inquire into matters and alleged grievances as to the administration of the income-tax was issued a few days ago. The subjects they were in the first instance instructed to inquire into included the prevention of fraud and the evasion of the tax; the treatment of incomes from copyrights, patents and terminable annuities; allowances for depreciation of plant &c.; and the three years average system permitted under schedule D to certain important classes of incomes. At the special instance of the committee the terms of reference were subsequently expanded to make it possible to include the question of the position of co-operative societies to income-tax. The conclusions reached show that, on the whole, no very drastic alterations are necessary in the administration of the tax which, it is declared, is levied at present "with a minimum of friction and a maximum of result".

The methods of evasion are twofold. In the first, the income liable to tax is deliberately underestimated; in the second, no return is made, in the hope that the payer will escape assessment, or that the official assessment will be less than his real income. It is thought that these frauds might be made more rare by making it possible to impose a small penalty on every person, whether he be found liable or not to income-tax, who fails to fill up and return the form. We do not doubt that the suggested alteration in the machinery for collecting the tax rendering a return obligatory on all persons at the discretion of the local surveyors will make evasion more difficult. Having regard, however, to the rate of increase in the yield per penny shown in recent years as well also of the number of individuals making returns, indicating that the increasing stringency of the department has produced a considerable extension of the taxable area, it appears to us somewhat doubtful if the enforcement of the proposed regulations will produce any considerable result. There will always remain a large band of people carrying on business in a small office with a considerable turnover, making large profits but keeping no accounts, whom no return will reach, and whose assessment will never be even approximately sufficient. Care must be taken that the future administration of the tax shall not be such as to make an already unpopular tax still more disliked. We do not agree "that the feeling formerly entertained against the income-tax system . . . has . . . largely died away". The extraordinarily high level at which the tax has now stood for some years, the country not being at war, has brought the question once more into prominence and will soon be sufficiently pronounced to call for immediate action by this or the next Government. There is no party which the middle classes will be more ready to support at the next election than the one which is pledged to a considerable reduction of the income-tax.

The treatment for purposes of income-tax, of copyrights, patent rights and terminable annuities, the committee suggest should in the main be continued on the present basis. An author who receives a royalty

on the copies of his work sold, or an inventor on the use of his patent, returns this sum in his income. The author or the inventor who receives a "lump sum" for his book or patent is regarded as having added to his capital account and is not subject to income-tax except in respect of interest on profits earned by the investment or employment of this capital. An exception is made in respect of the "professional" author, the income from whose works—even by way of "lump sum"—is regarded as annual earnings liable to tax. It is recommended, however, and to this there can be no objection, that the income-tax on royalties derived from patent rights should be collected where possible from the user of the patent who shall be entitled to deduct the tax from the payments to the patentees. This is merely an extension of the principle of "collection at the source" which is so strongly commended by the committee. It is somewhat more difficult to justify the method adopted in respect of annuities running for life or for a definite term of years. Each payment unquestionably consists partly of a repayment of capital and partly also of a sum which represents interest on the balance still owing. It is the practice to make the annuitant liable to income-tax on the whole of this sum, instead of what must be regarded as equitable, on the second portion only.

The proposal that the present system of assessment based on the average income of three years in the case of certain classes of incomes from trades, professions, &c., shall be discontinued will probably arouse some controversy. The suggestion that there shall be substituted the system of universal assessment based on the profits actually realised in the previous year appears, on the whole, quite a reasonable one. If the change can be brought about without undue hardship it is to be commended. It is admitted that it is mainly in respect of Section 133 of the Act of 1842, which virtually gives an option of the more favourable of two alternatives, that the present system confers a preferential advantage which is unjust to the other taxpayers. Under the present system and practice the profits of an exceptionally bad year might appear four successive years, while the profits of a good year need appear twice only. This constitutes an anomaly which should be immediately remedied. If any feeling is manifested against the proposed change, it will certainly be wise in any case to abolish the privilege of the option mentioned above.

The committee has done a useful service by clearing up the misapprehensions existing among traders throughout the country that the exemption from assessment to income-tax of the profits of co-operative societies, under the provisions of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act of 1894, gives these concerns a preferential advantage over ordinary trading bodies which the Act never intended to confer on them. It is pointed out, and quite rightly, that the advantage is illusory and non-existent. The difference rested merely on the fact that in the case of these societies it was an administrative convenience to alter the mode in which the tax was collected. If, as is the case in other businesses, the tax were collected "at the source" the Revenue would become liable to an enormous number of claims,—running into millions—on account of tax paid on profits which are distributed later among persons whose gross incomes are less than £160. This would involve a very considerable increase in the expense of administration to collect a sum which it is not anticipated would yield more than some few thousands. The absurdity of the opposite contention is well brought out by the fact that, instead of distributing bonuses, the co-operative societies might equally well use their profits to reduce the prices of the goods they sell.

There has just been also issued a return giving particulars of graduated income-tax levied in British colonies. A second return has also been promised, and will doubtless be issued shortly, detailing similar information with respect to foreign countries. The return shows that the principle of a graduated income-tax is adopted in a more or less modified form in the Australian colonies, in New Zealand, and South Africa; while no income-tax whatever is levied for general purposes in Canada. In Victoria, for example, the

rates for the year 1905 are 3*d.* in the £ for incomes up to £500 derived from personal exertion, and additional increments of a penny for each additional £500 up to £1,500. Thus on £500 the rate is 3*d.*; on £1,000 the rate is 3½*d.*; on £1,500 the rate is 4*d.*; on £3,000 the rate is 4½*d.* A similar system of graduation is adopted in the remaining Australian colonies, except that in certain cases a lump sum of 10*s.* or £1 according to income is raised on the lowest incomes. A little consideration will show that the same kind of result is obtained by the varying rates of abatements on incomes of different sizes in this country. Thus with the present rate of 1*s.* in £1, incomes of £300 pay only 5½*d.*, incomes of £500 pay 8½*d.*; while only on incomes exceeding £700 is the full shilling levied. The principle of graduation is thus clearly a part of the fiscal system of this country though not quite in the same obvious manner as in our colonies.

Incidentally, the reply of the Canadian Government brings out the fact that an income-tax is levied in certain of the provinces for purely local purposes. If it were possible so to enlarge the basis of local taxation in this country as to include an income-tax for local purposes, we consider that much might thus be done to diminish the burden of present local expenditure. The difficulties are purely administrative in character, and might be overcome if a set determination were directed to that purpose by an able financial committee. There is no reason in logic or equity why all personality should be relieved from contribution to the expenses of the locality in which the income is earned or spent.

THE SUMMER TRAINS.

THE time-tables of the principal English railways again show a decided improvement, although the standard attained in recent years has been very high. It is true that the best English expresses still are, and probably always will be, inferior to the best running elsewhere; but in England good trains are very numerous, and all carry third-class passengers, so that on the whole, in spite of the fact that the average is lowered by the wretchedly inferior work done by the three southern companies, the railway services of this country are at present by far the best in the world.

In the past, train improvements have generally been attributable to an outburst of energy on the part of some one particular company which has made it necessary for rival companies to smarten their services to the points directly in competition; and for a long time it was the practice of English lines to do their very best where competition was keen while they avenged themselves on the public by doing ostentatiously bad work wherever they had a monopoly. Contrast for example the North-Western services to Scotland ten years ago with those which the company at that time thought good enough for Liverpool, Ireland, or Birmingham. But at last the more enlightened lines have appreciated the fact that, apart from questions of competition, good trains are profitable; and north of the Thames there are splendid services to all parts of the country.

To the traveller of an earlier generation perhaps the most remarkable feature of our modern practice would be the treatment accorded to the excursionist. That humble person, for whom during the first half-century of railway management nothing was considered bad enough, may now ride in comfortable carriages, at convenient hours, at fifty miles an hour, for a farthing a mile; and the result is, we believe, as satisfactory to the shareholder as it is to the tripper himself.

A change appears to be coming over English habits in the matter of long-distance Sunday travelling. From early times indeed mail trains have been run on Sundays; but they were, and in Scotland still are, decently disposed of during the hours of darkness; and as a general principle the daylight passenger was made to understand that a Sunday journey must be avoided at all costs if possible. Now however one company after another is putting on fast day expresses with dining-cars; and the existing trains are so popular that we seem likely gradually to drift into the position of

continental or American lines where the services are maintained on all days of the week without variation. For the sake of the railway servants we hope this will never be the case.

The principal alterations in English trains to be recorded since last summer are the improvements between London and the business centres of Birmingham, Liverpool, Sheffield, and Newcastle, and the introduction of through services from the northern counties to the south coast avoiding the necessity of driving across London. In the autumn of last year a new evening train was put on between London and Newcastle which at first covered the whole distance in 5 hours 12 minutes. North of York this train, when it keeps its booked time, gives another North-Eastern run at over sixty miles an hour between stations. For the winter the North-Western Company started running a through service to Brighton and Eastbourne, and so successful has it proved that it has become permanent; and with the current month other through services, in which the Midland and Great Northern Companies join, have been put on reaching practically the whole of the south coast from Dover to Bournemouth. The Great Western and South-Eastern have been working through trains via Reading for some years past; and it is strange that the Midland with its two routes to the southern systems by Ludgate Hill and by Acton has not done more to develop this traffic. North of London all these services are good; south of the Thames they are poor on all three of the lines concerned, particularly on the South-Western which allows the up train from Southampton 1 hour 14 minutes for the first 31 miles. The Great Western Company after many years of contemplation has at last determined to make a start with its new short route to Birmingham and the North, and the mere thought of the coming competition has scared the North-Western Company into putting on a series of splendid trains doing the journey in both directions between London and Birmingham without a stop in the even two hours. For the time the Great Western with sixteen miles further to go is fairly beaten, but with its new line it will have the shortest route of all, so there are stirring times ahead. With the current month the North-Western has for the first time started a regular service between London and Liverpool up and down without a stop, and this is the more welcome since the company is in a position to treat Liverpool pretty much as it pleases. But neither the North-Western and its Caledonian partner nor their East Coast rivals can be induced to improve the running of the day trains between London and Scotland, which have now remained practically without improvement in speed since 1888 and are far behind the modern standard. The Great Northern, which, false to its high-speed traditions, to-day never makes an improvement that can be avoided, has been driven by Great Central competition to put on a fine evening train which runs to Sheffield without stopping in the Great Central's new time of 170 minutes and reaches Manchester in four hours. The corresponding up-train however is not so good. The North-Eastern has brought its new Durham coast line into use and the south expresses running via Sunderland now escape the famous Ryhope incline. A new express has been started from Newcastle for London at 8 A.M., and if only the Great Northern could be induced to run it smartly south of York a passenger, for the first time in history, would be able to breakfast in Newcastle and sleep in Paris within twenty-four hours. As things are the arrival at King's Cross is just too late to make certain of the afternoon boat train from Charing Cross. The Midland which a few years ago, beaten at every point, was reduced to advertising its route as the "most interesting" has now quite regained the reputation which it enjoyed under Allport. But particularly is the public indebted to the present spirited management of the Great Central. Not only have its brilliant trains compelled the three old-established companies to make improvements to the midlands, Yorkshire and Lancashire, which would otherwise not have been seen for another generation, but it has also worked up cross-country services in all directions to a level which a few years ago would have been considered impossible.

The South-Eastern and Chatham record is very dis-

appointing. Since the amalgamation immense sums have been spent in improving the lines and building new rolling stock; but the good trains which this expenditure has rendered possible are still not forthcoming, and the time-tables this year show no real improvement. The Brighton line as usual has no good trains, the services ranging from indifferent to very bad indeed. The South-Western in fighting the Great Western for Devon and Cornwall shows that it can do good work when it pleases, but the other parts of its system fare badly and it can still boast that its direct services to Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight are, considering the importance of the district, the worst in the world. Its one real improvement for the year is the introduction of restaurant cars on the Bournemouth line.

Of the extra expresses added for the summer months, the Great Western Company's Cornish Limited has by judicious advertising become the most famous train in Europe. New rolling-stock has been built for the Limited this year and for the first time in English practice a stewardess is carried for the convenience of lady passengers. But fine though this train is, those which take a permanent place in the time-tables are really of more importance than any which run only for a short time each year.

THE CITY.

THE close of the June quarter usually disposes of the question as to the course of the money market for the following month or two, and unless any powerful disturbing factor arises there is every reason to anticipate a period of substantial ease until the autumn. In ordinary times one would look for a reflection of the money rates in the quotations for gilt-edged stocks, but conclusions based upon past experience have been so often falsified of late that one hesitates to express a very positive opinion. The dividends which are disbursed at the half-year constitute an important sum in bulk and the re-investment of such funds has hitherto given employment to the Stock Market, but there has been extremely little business of this nature during the past week, forcing one to the view that the public as a body has no surplus of funds for capital investment. The revenue returns for the past quarter lend colour to belief that the spending power of the country is lower, for whilst the shortage of Exchequer receipts under certain heads, more especially the Customs as the result of the retention in bond of large quantities of tea, may be explained, the shrinkage of £281,000 in the Excise is significant and points to a general falling-off in the economic condition. A further point is to be found in the reduced rate of dividend announced by certain of the big banking institutions, which is unmistakable evidence of a lack of profitable and legitimate outlet for capital.

The issue of £755,000 Bristol Corporation 3½ per cent. stock was not unexpected as it has been known for some time past that funds would be required for the purposes of the corporation's dock undertakings and at the issue price of par with a currency of sixty years the stock is attractive enough as the rateable value of the city is £1,750,000 and the money is to be spent in reproductive works. The second issue of importance during the past week has been that of the United Railways of Havana and Regla Warehouses, Messrs. Schröder & Co. having bought from the company £500,000 of new 5 per Cent. Preference stock at 101½ and this was offered to the public at the price of 105 with priority to existing holders in the capital stock. The expansion in the net receipts of the railway during the past three years has been very considerable and as, on the basis of last year's profits, the dividend on the Preference shares is covered about eight times, there appears to be ample security. The forthcoming Japanese loan however is occupying most attention for the moment and is quite certain to be a fine success. At the time of writing the precise details of the issue are not known, but we understand that it is to be a 4½ per cent. loan for £30,000,000 at the issue price of 90 and the security a second charge on the tobacco monopoly. It will be remembered that these are the identical terms of the last issue for a similar amount, the quotation for

which is now about 2 per cent; this however includes about £1 of accrued interest. The estimated revenue for the fiscal year 1905-6 from the tobacco monopoly is £3,268,000, so that the margin is quite ample for another loan and the second charge on the security is more apparent than real and should not have much effect—if any—on the price of the loan.

The traffic returns of the South American railways, with minor exceptions, show substantial increases, the Buenos Ayres Great Southern heading the list with an improvement of £23,000, making a total increase over the figures for the corresponding period of last year of £468,000. This is much greater in proportion than any of the other lines, but all are doing well. We understand that the banks operating in South America are also making much larger profits; and among the institutions to which we drew attention a short time ago the London and River Plate is likely to increase its dividend by 2 or 3 per cent. making 20 or 22 per cent. in all: an investor might do much worse than buy the shares of this bank, which has a reserve fund more than equal to its paid-up capital.

The course of American railroad shares has been again upward but the speculating public on this side are very chary of entering the market.

The discomfiture of the South African mining market has made further progress, chiefly owing to the proposals for the amalgamation of the Barnato companies to which we alluded last week. It is a hopeless task to attempt to fathom the policy of the firm concerned except on the hypothesis to which the market gives full expression in the most uncomplimentary terms. But whatever the intention may have been the effect has been ample enough one would suppose to gratify the most insatiable "bear". The selling from the provinces and from the Continent has been continuous, and although there has been a certain absorption of stock by the controlling houses the want of cohesion is evident. We much fear that no consideration for the genuine investor or respect for their own reputation is likely to deter those who are currently reported as being largely responsible for the present state of affairs: "Fouling one's own nest" is a matter of minor importance.

Next week Messrs. Waring and Gillow (Limited) will offer for subscription at par £300,000 4½ per cent. Irredeemable Mortgage Debenture Stock (making £1,000,000 with the £700,000 already issued) and 145,000 7 per cent. Cumulative Ordinary Shares of £1 each. The certified profit for 1904 was £131,551, and the interest on the debenture stock and preference shares will absorb only £75,000.

INSURANCE.

THE AMERICAN EQUITABLE.

ALTHOUGH we referred to the affairs of the American Equitable last week, it is necessary to deal with them again in consequence of the receipt of a report from the Insurance Superintendent of the State of New York. After making many examinations which were supposed to investigate in detail the affairs of the Equitable Society, and finding that everything was completely satisfactory, the New York Insurance Department has made another investigation and finds that things are rather worse with the Equitable than has ever been the case before in an important Life assurance company. The present report is probably correct, because certain of the officials have quarrelled with each other and have been telling tales.

The founder of the Equitable, Mr. H. B. Hyde, used his position as principal shareholder to make profits for himself at the expense of the society. Among other things he formed three Safe Deposit companies, to which the Equitable leased portions of various buildings on terms which resulted in enormous profits to the promoters of the Safe Deposit companies, and a corresponding loss to the Equitable. In connexion with these Safe Deposit vaults, the Equitable incurred expenses greatly in excess of the rent received, and the Safe Deposit companies got valuable premises rent free and had some of their expenses paid into the bargain.

Mr. Hyde and his friends received dividends which varied from 18 to 29 per cent. and the younger Hyde made the American Equitable buy the shares in one of these Safe Deposit companies at an enormous premium.

Young Mr. Hyde has a superlative sense of his own value. At the age of twenty-four he assigned himself a salary of \$30,000: at the age of twenty-six he increased his salary to \$75,000, and at the age of twenty-seven to \$100,000. Some people to whom we have mentioned these matters have been so incredulous that they thought a mistake had been made and that we were talking of cents, or that we had forgotten the equivalent in sterling of the American dollar. Perhaps we may be forgiven a reference to the salary which is said to be paid to the very highly esteemed veteran manager of one of the very greatest British companies. His salary is £5,000. Mr. Hyde, who spends nearly half his time in Europe, and a great deal of other time on the affairs of companies, his connexions with which are due to the employment of the Equitable funds for his own benefit, has been paying himself £20,000 a year and drawing for expenses, without supplying any details, \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. The direct profit which Mr. Hyde has made in the last two or three years out of selling to the Equitable securities in which he was interested was \$63,731. Mr. J. W. Alexander, the president of the company, has made an identical amount in a similar way, and he too has drawn a salary of £20,000 a year. Three vice-presidents of the society have received \$120,000 a year between them, and the salaries of the chief officials have increased to the extent of 61 per cent. in four years. A member of the finance committee is the senior partner of an American firm which has sold the Equitable securities to the value of nearly \$50,000,000 in four years. The widow of the founder, who left a large estate, to a great extent accumulated from dubious profits made out of the Equitable, received a pension of \$25,000 a year. The great majority of the directors are mere dummies qualified by Hyde and having no beneficial interest in the qualifying stock which stands in their name. The executive committee settles something to their own interests and detrimental to the society, and the finance committee, consisting of the same gentlemen, approves their action.

And so we might go on to an almost unlimited extent, basing every statement on the official report of the insurance superintendent of the State of New York. This report has been transmitted to the Attorney-General for such action as he may think proper: we do not anticipate much benefit from that action. The superintendent, according to the way of his kind, wants to pass a law in a hurry, regulating the investment of funds. Such a law would be as futile as all the other laws of the State of New York, which, numerous and stringent as they are, have not prevented the worst Life assurance scandal in our own or any other time. Then he advocates the elimination of the shareholders and the complete mutualisation of the society. It is quite certain that this will not have the smallest tendency to prevent a ring of officials acquiring absolute control and using the resources of the society for their own purposes. It has long been perfectly obvious that people were doing a foolish thing to effect their policies with such a company as the American Equitable.

S. GILES'S IN THE FIELDS.

LONDON slums have ceased to be conterminous with S. Giles's in the Fields but still the phrase S. Giles's and S. James's represents the old distinction between the outcast and the favoured. But S. Giles's has been less neglected in recent years than it used to be, and many of us are uneasy if we cannot in one way or another redress the balance of pleasure which seems to turn so decidedly in our favour. We have therefore devised Fresh Air Funds, Children's Country Holiday Funds, and Women's Holiday Funds, and there are few things which appeal so strongly to the sympathies in summer and early autumn when at least the week-end appears an essential element to the happiness of every human being. But we hear that there are weak points in these institutions, and that

though they may give pleasure and do good to many of their beneficiaries they are not in so high favour with their patrons as they used to be. These appear to be getting weary of well doing from a cause which only too often interferes with the practice of virtue; it is bringing some inconvenience in its train. There is disappointment with the youngsters. They appear not to be falling in quite artistically with the idyllic picture of the country which is in the imagination of the æsthetic and enthusiastic persons who have supposed that S. Giles's youth need only to be dumped in the country to receive as by magic the Wordsworthian or other poetic sentiment in their breasts. It remains apparently an ineradicable instinct in the minds of the rougher classes of town children to treat the land or seascape as a scene for all the fun of the fair. They carry the manners of S. Giles's wherever they may be transported, and as at home they are sometimes pulling down staircases and the panels of doors for firewood, so in the fields they work off their superabundant energy in making hay, in a non-agricultural sense, of everything which falls into their hands. They change their sky but not their moods; and they ruthlessly upset pretty theories about the refining influence of nature upon the youthful mind. We have not heard it disputed yet that a few weeks in the country is good for the physical health of young S. Giles, and the disappointment so far expressed has been with the moral and spiritual influence which it was assumed would emanate from pastoral scenes and fill the souls of these urban fledglings. But before long we shall not be surprised if the discovery is made that a very short holiday is a better tonic than a prolonged one; and if S. Giles is deported from the slums it will be to scenes with a strong dash of the urban in them, from which he can be brought back within the twenty-four hours.

Yet nothing has happened but what might have been expected, had the patrons of these benevolent schemes been less of sentimentalists. There is really nothing better for the little S. Giles than that he should get a good dose of the country: but why should he be expected to treat it with more reverence than his father and mother, the bean-feasters—or his brothers the bicyclists, who invade it in hordes but ignore its existence? If he cannot amuse himself in town, as we are told he cannot, and games must be invented for him, and his amusements controlled and directed, how much more awkward and at a loss he must be in the country of which he has had no experience. Left to his own devices there he will naturally get into mischief; he will trespass, break down hedges and trees, pluck plants and flowers that are not for plucking, make the hens' lives and their owners' a burden, throw stones and break windows, fight and use freely the vernacular of S. Giles's to the dismay and consternation of the benevolent ladies who have put themselves to so much trouble to find him a rustic home. His evil communications are said to corrupt the good manners of his temporary foster brothers and sisters; and from parents, and neighbours, the farmers and country gentlemen, the good ladies have to listen to complaints of their protégés and be blamed for introducing into a peaceful country parish the disorders of S. Giles's. If this feeling grows there will be an end of the country holiday for poor children, and this would be regrettable. There is no doubt that an importation of poor children may become a nuisance if they are simply planted there without control. The fathers and mothers of young rustics have no parental authority over their new charges, and know nothing at all of the nature and habits and ways of town children. Ninety-nine persons in a hundred find themselves bored if they are taken from their town occupations and left to amuse themselves in the country, where, as Dr. Johnson said, one green field is just like another, and when you have seen one you have seen all. When children enjoy the country it is when they are in large numbers, and can run about playing games under the supervision of teachers or other guardians. They should not be kept in S. Giles's all the summer, but some system of camping out should be devised, and they should learn what the country is from people who have the time and taste to teach them. As the child is now catered for, everything with which he is familiar is absent; he

misses his friends, and he is not in the village sufficiently long to settle down to country ways. This gets on his nerves, and he is even more restless and mischievous than he would be in his usual surroundings. What the practical difficulties of this suggestion might be we are not considering; but we are convinced that whatever other parties may find to complain of in the present dumping of S. Giles's in the villages the children themselves ought not to be blamed as though they were specially disagreeable. They have not the feeling for nature any more than any other classes of children have, or than most adults have, and if it were possible at their age for them to come under its influence, the home of a farm labourer is not the place where it would be likely to be cultivated.

The squires or squireens who complain are a little selfish because their comfort is to some extent interfered with. Partly the hostility between the people of the towns and of the country which has always existed has something to do with the dissatisfaction that has arisen. When they find something more of the town hooligan element than of Paul and Virginia in the boys and girls from S. Giles's they should reflect that it is not easy to adapt oneself to scenes to which one has not been accustomed. The rustics who come to town are just as much out of their element there as the town children in the country; and the townsman is just as impatient of them. A Londoner dislikes an invasion of country people; and he is as glad to see their departure as any inhabitant of a village is to see the last of the youngsters of the holiday funds. Though we think the country people are showing themselves a little too fastidious, their prejudices may have to be taken into account. They can throw so many difficulties in the way if they cease to have sympathy with the town children that the holiday funds system may become unworkable. This would be regrettable for with all its drawbacks it gives S. Giles's something which it needs and which it ought to have even in greater measure. It is not on the right lines to cut it off from the country. We shall probably have to modify the system and take the children a-gipsying instead of fixing them for tedious weeks in a village where they are restless and discontented and at a loss what to do with themselves. Change of air, and good air, is a boon, but when that is the only change one can understand what an old inmate of a workhouse which had a beautiful prospect meant when he admitted the charm but grumbled that it was "uncommon monotonous". The educative, refining, soothing, consoling influence of rural solitude is very pretty as a theory, but it does not fit the facts except in comparatively rare cases. "And what the devil was it if it wasn't a primrose?" is most people's real thought; and primroses, with nothing else, become "uncommon monotonous" to them. Even Wordsworth remembered a time when they were simply primroses to him. If the S. Giles's boy is not to paint the peaceful village red he must not be left too much alone with the primroses or the poppies.

COLONIAL MUSIC.

LAST week I said all that can be said at present about the state of affairs musical in Scotland. This week I have a few words to say about music in England and the colonies. It is my intention to take the first opportunity of visiting these same colonies, but in the meantime I have taken the trouble to gather in a huge amount of perfectly useless statistics. It is to be noted in the first place that music is extremely popular in our colonies and that our colonial cousins seem determined not to get far behind our average provincial town. The "Messiah" is adored and "Elijah" is idolised. In Canada they have grown so fond of oratorio that they have engaged Sir Alexander Mackenzie to go across and compose and conduct for them. In South Africa "Judas Maccabæus" attracts crowds. In Australia they have got the biggest organ in the world. What they do in our other outlying possessions such as Borneo, India, Ireland, and the Isle of Man I cannot say, the friends to whom I have written about these places having remained obstinately

silent. But I have good reasons to infer that from a musical point of view every colonial town is a sort of London.

To be London is bad; to be a mere imitation of London is surely worse. Since my return to these villainous climes I have done a good deal of unobtrusive concert-going, and I have read with considerable assiduity the concert-notice of my brethren. And after observing things for myself and reading what others have to say it is borne in upon me that London music is getting into a worse state than ever. We have blank weeks, blank months, when all save six or seven millions of inhabitants are out of town; then we have a few weeks during which from seventy to a hundred concerts are given every six days. The programmes for these concerts are always the same. I have lying before me at this moment some two hundred of them, the carefully hoarded débris of some weeks of carefully dodged musical entertainments; and I find that all the pianists have played the same things, all the violinists played the same things, nearly all the singers sung the same things. In my fellow-critics' notices—my fellows of the daily papers—this monotony is reflected. What they have already written about one artist they repeat about another, and an intelligent Japanese would be sorely troubled to know if there was any difference between the playing of Miss A. (aged nine) and Mr. B. (aged fifty-nine).

A curious sign may be observed this year. Formerly the flood of concerts used to last until the end of July. At the end of June this year the bottom suddenly dropped out of the season, and now the pianists cease from troubling and the fiddlers are at rest. They are beginning to find out that the game is an unprofitable one. Let us hope that some day they will find out why it is unprofitable. Everlastingly to play the same things is not the way to attract the paying, or even the non-paying, public. If there is no new music written nowadays, did not Purcell, Bach, Handel, Beethoven and Mozart leave a thousand beautiful things that one can never hear in a concert-hall? The answer may be that they did but no one will come to hear them. My advice is Try. For twenty years pianists and fiddlers have played the same pieces, firmly convinced that the British concert-goer will listen to nothing else; and now that the British concert-goer has struck and remains at home to grumble whenever a concert is going forward, perhaps the artists may see the wisdom of trying a change. Let us have the new or the unfamiliar old.

London lingers along with its stale concert-programmes and its eternal "Messiah" and "Elijah"; and the colonies labour heavily after. Canada, as I have remarked, has become frightfully advanced. Canada has no musician of her own and for some reason decided to make a hero of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Why that gentleman should be dragged from his soft retreat in Tenterden Street to conduct his own and other music in a far-away land on the other side of the Atlantic is a thing of which I can offer no explanation. The fact remains that he is undoubtedly popular there, which does not tell us so much about his musical gifts as about Canada's musical judgment. He has lately written a rhapsody on Canadian folk-songs which I would much like to see. As Canada has no folk-songs it would be interesting to know who hoaxed Sir Alexander. Dvorák was frightfully taken in by some humorous American who told him that nigger corruptions of old English psalm-tunes were America's national music, and he set to work and laboriously constructed symphonies out of them; but even that joke was less cruel than persuading a respectable English knight, the father of a family, to become romantic and write rhapsodies on fragments of old English and Breton songs. Canada, however, having no musicians of her own seems determined to capture someone who, if not a very great composer and not a conductor at all, is a man of unimpeachable character. She has got him and I wish her joy of the national music he will create for her. Old French tunes treated in a consistently Academic way by a plodding Scot ought to satisfy.

Australia has no more musicians than Canada. I suppose it is natural that none of these outland places

should have musicians of its own. Scotland has only half a dozen; the only Irish musician known to me rejoices in the very Hibernian name of Esposito; Canada and Australia have none, and I am told that some peculiar microbe kills off any musical person who remains in India five years. Australia, however, had the good luck to get a thoroughly good English musician some thirteen or fourteen years ago, Mr. G. W. L. Marshall Hall. He was recommended by Sir Hubert Parry and others for the professorship of music in Melbourne University, and though he fell out some time back with the childish authorities he remains in the city as director of the Melbourne conservatoire. Music in Australia means what Marshall Hall is doing. In other places they imitate London with the "Messiah" and "Elijah"—even in Melbourne they do that—but the Marshall Hall orchestral concerts have programmes as fresh and good as any concert to be heard in London. Marshall Hall succeeded at the university by a tame gentleman from Edinburgh, but Mr. Petersen is bound to draw his thousand a year and live in quiet retirement—he cannot hold his own against a man who is a fine musician and a stupendous personality. Of all the colonies Australia seems to me the only one likely to produce a musician of its own and that because Marshall Hall has not tried to create a national music out of nigger or French or Red Indian songs, but while going on composing in his natural manner has encouraged the younger men, his pupils, to give expression to their feelings also in a natural manner. There is no need to hurry—it is useless to hurry. No nation is compelled to produce great artists of any sort: it is no shame to them if they don't. But if they turn up, so much the better and there is more chance of getting them by Marshall Hall's method than by the Canadian way of importing academics to compose rhapsodies on tunes that are in no sense Canadian.

JOHN F. RUNCIMAN.

MR. CONRAD'S PLAY.

I HOPE that "One Day More", which the Stage Society produced with "The New Felicity", is not the only alms that Mr. Conrad will bestow on our needy drama. Mr. Conrad is just the sort of person who ought to be coaxed into writing plays. It is awful to remember that every day throughout the length and breadth of the land, duffers innumerable are, with fervid industry, planning new scenarios, and turning out dialogue by the ream, and getting it type-written and bound in brown paper and despatched to the various managers, whilst, for the most part, the few people who might really help to improve our drama hold themselves aloof from it as surely as respectable Americans hold themselves aloof from politics. That American politics are a hot-bed of corruption is the excuse always pleaded by respectable Americans for their aloofness. That the English theatre is a hot-bed of stupidity and artificiality is the excuse always pleaded by English masters of fiction for their aloofness. It is a very poor excuse. Just as the obvious answer to the respectable Americans is that it is their duty to redeem American politics by dashing into them in the full armour of their respectability, so the obvious answer to our masters of fiction is that they cannot expect the English theatre to be other than bad so long as they refuse to help it. When one of these masters does actually condescend to write a play, we ought all to dance around him and pat him enthusiastically on the back, crying "Continue!" I hasten to dance thus around Mr. Conrad. But my gyrations recall painfully to me those of the famous bee who tried to "swarm alone". My colleagues in criticism have, for the most part, a primitive mistrust of strangers. They do not say "Here is new blood. Let us help it to circulate", but "Here is new blood. Let us throw cold water on it". They do not say of Mr. Conrad "Here is the sort of man that is needed—a man with a wide knowledge of many kinds of life, and a man with acute vision, and with deep human sympathy, and with a passionate imagination—an essentially dramatic imagination, moreover", but "Mr. Conrad has much to learn", or something to that

miserable effect. It is the old story of heaving half a brick; and the handiest half a brick is, of course, always to say of a new playwright that he has not mastered the tricks of the stage. Sometimes the criticism is true (though always it is trifling). But in the case of Mr. Conrad it is quite unjustified. Mr. Conrad has not worked on that scale which offers serious difficulties in technical construction. He has not written a full-sized play. He has but turned one of his short stories into a little one-act play. And the short story chosen by him for this purpose happens to be one which any child could dramatise effectively. Indeed, I am not sure that it was not originally conceived in dramatic form. I remember that when I read it in one of Mr. Conrad's books, I thought to myself "Here is a play which has been refused in the usual way by the usual managers; and the author, with a sigh, has now turned it into a short story"; for the action of the story was laid in one scene, and was continuous, from first to last, and was far more "external" than is Mr. Conrad's wont. I had no means of verifying my theory. It is possible that my theory was incorrect. But the fact remains that, as the story was written, practically all that Mr. Conrad had to do, in making a play of it, was to excise all the words that did not appear between inverted commas. The play, as it stands, is a quite straightforward and well-knit play. The characters come on and go off quite naturally. There is no technical blemish whatever. But, even if this play were evidently the work of an amateur, and scored all over with technical blemishes, how lamentable a lack of critical insight were revealed by a criticism insistent on these blemishes, and imperipient of the originality and the fine humanity and strength underlying them!

The play is a tragedy, set in modern times; and that fact alone is, of course, enough to damn it in the eyes of most critics. A man who detects and depicts anything like a tragedy in modern life is instantly by these critics suspected of "morbidness", and of not thinking that life, generally, is worth living. Of course, the "morbidness" inheres really in these critics themselves, whose taste for life is so slight that they shrink away in horror from any phase of life that is not delicious. The heroine of "One Day More" leads a not at all delicious existence, and consequently these critics scuttle away babbling about defective technique in order to drown their memory of this dreadful girl. Her father is a blind sailor, to the care of whom she has for years devoted her health and strength. He is not at all grateful to her—bullies her, will not give her an instant's rest. She is not so young as she was; and she has enough imagination to repine at the passing of her youth, and the utter vacancy of her life. Except her father, the only person whom she knows is an old and crazy man who lives in the next cottage. He, too, was once a sailor, but had always hated and feared the sea. His son, when he grew to boyhood, ran away to sea, and has never been heard of since. For years and years, the old man has lived only for the return of his son. It is always "to-morrow" that his son will come back to him, and, from day to day he lives on in that certainty. His cottage is packed with an accumulation of things that he buys to make for his son a fine home. And, of course, there must be a wife for his son. This destined wife is the girl next door—"the only sensible girl hereabouts". And to her, during all these years, he has been talking about her future husband. She, of course, does not believe that the son will ever come back. She does not suppose that, if he did come back, he would want to marry her. Still, so utterly empty her life is that she finds some solace in a hope that she cannot really feel. In the story, as Mr. Conrad wrote it, she and the crazy old man were equally important and elaborately-drawn figures: our interest was divided equally between them. In the play, naturally, she is protagonist, and the crazy old man falls to the background, with the other characters. One day, the son does return. He wants money. The father bids him be off. He wants no beggarly impostors coming to get money out of him. His son is coming back to-morrow—to-morrow. He slams the door of the cottage. Knowing of old his father's obstinacy, the

young man finally abandons the attempt to establish his identity. This girl here must help him. Women have always helped him out of difficulties, all the world over. She, in his presence, realises the pitiful absurdity of the hope that she had half held. He laughs aloud when she tells him that his father had wanted him to settle down at home, and laughs still louder at the notion of his ever marrying. He, the wanderer! He, the conqueror of hearts! It is five pounds that he wants. The girl has saved just five pounds. He prevails on her to give them to him. And, in return, he roughly catches her in his arms, and holds her there while he kisses her. At first she struggles, after a while surrenders. Having kissed her enough, he goes off, laughing. The girl stands there dazed. Her name is bawled out from within the cottage. Her father is calling to her. Again he calls, and she goes to him. There the play, like the story, ends. It is a terrible and haunting play, as you may imagine even from this bald description of it. In other words, it is a powerful tragedy. And, therefore, I delight in it. What I want from art is some kind of emotion. It matters not at all to me whether the emotion be in itself one of pleasure or one of pain. In whatever way I be quickened, I am grateful. I pity the critics who can find no æsthetic pleasure in "One Day More". They ought to give up criticism.

I was less moved by the play than I had been by the story. But this disparity is not due to Mr. Conrad's supposed lack of technical skill: the play, as a play, is not less good than was the story, as a story. Nor are the performers to blame. Miss Collier, as the central figure, played admirably in just that minor key which was needed for the particular pathos of the character; and Mr. Lestrangle, as the wanderer, had just the right sort of panache. The reason why the play is inferior to the story is simply that the dramatic form is, generally and essentially, inferior to the literary form. In the one . . . Hush! Am I not a dramatic critic? And is not my immediate aim to coax Mr. Conrad, for our drama's sake, to further dramaturgy?

MAX BEERBOHM.

BIRD LIFE IN THE POLDERS.

THE ASSEMBLING OF THE RUFFS.

IN Holland there are certain wide plains—a good many in fact—called the polders, and in one of these there is a certain space, by no means large, which to the casual passer-by—if there were one such here—has little or nothing to distinguish it from the surrounding waste—for this is not the cultivated part of Holland, though, like most or all of it, it had been torn from the grasp of the sea. But looking more closely, and then, as the interest deepens, "with the very comment of one's soul", one sees that the space in question has some marked peculiarities. It is situated in a little dell, as it were, formed by the grass being shorter, thicker, greener and more tufted than that which immediately surrounds it, and all about it, sometimes in the very midst of what were once tufty patches, are circular depressions—pits they might almost be called—about two feet across, from which the grass has been more or less worn away, especially in the centre where it is brown and bare. In each of these shallow pits feathers lie scattered about, in some so plentifully as to tell a plain tale of war and commotion, and the brown surface is, in parts, whitened, like the rocks where sea-fowl sit. These holes lie close together, like those on a bagatelle board. There are about a dozen of them, and the space which, with a small margin round about, they occupy, is some twenty to twenty-three paces in circumference. It is empty now, and silent save for the pee-yarring of the terns, which breed all about it, over the great polders, but later, after one is gone—or could one only conceal oneself in the neighbourhood—it will echo not to cries indeed, as does the Scandinavian lek-platz to the martial challenge of the black-cock, but to fierce blows and furious whirrings of the wings, whilst the whole place will become a scene of wild confusion, of feints, of crouchings, of furious rushes backwards and forwards over the grassy arena, of darts, of springs, of meetings in mid air, of waving

plumes, and spread redundancy of featherdom—for this is the tourney or battle-ground, the Ashby-de-la-Zouche of the ruffs. But how is one to be a spectator at these "very gentle and joyous passages of arms" seeing that, for all their boldness with one another, these warriors, like other birds, are shy of man, and that there is no place in the vicinity—one might almost say in the whole country—which, at the same time, offers both shelter and elevation? To make oneself invisible, indeed, or at least to become unnoticed, at no more than a moderate distance—that is for the glasses—is always possible, one has only to lie flat on the ground; but it is difficult, in this way, amidst the tussocks of grass, to see the minutiae of things. Some other method must be devised "and pat it comes like the catastrophe of the old play"—catastrophes, indeed, whether of plays or otherwise, do come pretty pat in this world. Unlike the veldt of South Africa—though of this they are always reminding me—these polders are under a regular system of drainage. Long, narrow trenches, running to the nearest water—which again, in its glimpses, looks like an up-country vley—scar their rugged surface and the turfs, which have been cut out to allow of the excavation of the soil, lie loosely scattered beside them. These offer material for a hasty breastwork, and behind it, with the glasses through an aperture, and a coat fixed on the parapet and descending over one's head, one may await in cramp and discomfort—the ordinary attitude of a field naturalist—whatever is ordained to take place. The terns meanwhile that have shrieked and jangled over these proceedings, as though altogether disapproving of them, now that they have ended in a mere black spot upon the wilderness, with no human form distinguishable amidst it, float gracefully away, and sinking towards their nests melt like snowflakes out of the blue sky into which however others are perpetually rising. The excitement is over, the great plain resumes its tranquillity, and the very windmills with their still sails starring the solitude seem to watch and wait. All at once on swiftly-flitting pinions an odd bird, that looks strangely top-heavy, shoots down and stands within the lists. It—the better part of it, that is to say—its flowing headgear and splendid gorget or ruff, is of a silvery whiteness, but almost immediately, as though hostile even in colours, a magnificent black-maned lion stands making poses beside it. And now in quick succession, bird after bird, sometimes in little groups of three or four, but for the most singly, come flying down, till at last a score or more, of which no two resemble each other more closely in colouring than a flock of dove-cot pigeons or miscellaneous assortment of poultry, ruffle, jaunt, or run violently about in a state of half-crazy excitement. As the numbers increase the excitement does also, and a principal cause of it is the arrival of any fresh bird amongst the rest. No sooner is the new-comer observed in the air than the whole assembly, swelling out their feathers, and standing, as it were, on tip-toe, bob—if they will pardon so homely a word—their heads and whole bodies several times up and down, their look and general appearance, as they do this, becoming so alert and eager that the very atmosphere seems electric with the foretaste of strife, and the expectant attitude of the birds is communicated very strongly to oneself behind the screen. This *φύμη* or wave of emotion, as one peers through the narrow loophole which excludes the greater part of the sky, is always the first warning one receives that a bird is about to descend, and should it pass off, for the time, without any arrival, you may be sure that one is of that mind and has circled round without yet alighting. When it does alight, it is with a violent run forward wherein, if it meet another—for it does not seem specially to aim at doing so—there is a brisk combat, though followed, as a rule, by a very quick separation; but, if not, the bird, on reaching the end of the lists turns, crouches, and prepares to engage with any of the three or four who, as standing nearest in position to the spot on which it pitched, have incontinently rushed after it. Motion, being thus imparted, is instantly made general, everywhere plumes are streaming, gorgets ruffling, ragged mops of feathers, blown this way and that by the wind, shoot at one another through the air,

there are starts, stage effects, short runs with sudden stops, long ones wherein the birds race about like miniature ostriches, and then, just as one looks to see something still more extraordinary, as the outcome of all this energy, something more defined and recordable, some prolonged, mighty duel, or more "swashing blow", lo all is still again, a bird "more mad", but a second before, "than Telamon for his shield" sheathes, all at once, his warlike bill amidst the tamer plumage of his back, and incontinently falls asleep, another doughty Hector does the same, by the very side of Achilles, who preens his feathers, soon all are dozing or preening, and the spirit of indolence seems to have succeeded that of alarms and excursions as quickly as sunshine and shadow chase each other over the cornfields on a cloudy day. One thing, indeed, is very noticeable in these strange scenes; there is much more of excitement and activity than of actual conflict in them. Engagements, when they do take place, seem more incidental than sought for, or, rather, one may say that the seeking is so wide and general that whatever particular event may arise out of it appears to be due to chance merely. But there is more than this. The very motions which the birds indulge in, their constant crouchings and threatenings, the shaking out of their war-plumes, and, above all, their rushes over the course, seem largely to satisfy them, so that one may watch for a very long time, and yet see little else than this mere fanfaronnade, the preparation, as it were, and bluster of war, with but little of the thing itself. Accordingly, though extremely interested, one is at the same time somewhat disappointed, and may even go away wondering whether the ruff, for all its great reputation as a fighter, is not somewhat of a sham one after all. But wait: the actors in this drama, as their name, no less than their doings, implies, have hitherto been all males. The female ruff or reeve has yet to appear. Her presence will have an inspiring effect. "Antony", henceforth, "will be himself—but touched by Cleopatra".

EDMUND SELOUS.

A BALLADE OF VERSEMAKING.

OUT of the bottomless Ocean rift,
The dumb, dead glooms and slimes of it,
The sunlight beckons the aimless drift,
And the moon bespeaks the times of it:
And the stormwind saws at the thundering strings,
Till the breakers bellow the chimes of it—
The close-wrought song that the Ocean sings,
With racing ripples the rhymes of it.

Out of the flaming firmament,
The ringing, singing mint of them,
The scarlet fades and the stars are spent,
One after one the glint of them:
And clear glow here the patterned words,
And dim is there the hint of them,
The hieroglyphs of beasts and birds,
For God to read the print of them.

Out of the wonder of Death and of Life,
Whatever stings or stirs of it,
Splendour of loving, splendour of strife,
The steadfast or perverse of it,—
The blessing or the curse of it,—
The better or the worse of it,—
There is no Word that is spoken to Man,
But Man shall make his Verse of it.

ENVOY.

Princess: this song has an idle tune,—
You must not deem the worse of it:
For it sang in my heart for an hour of June,
And You were mother and nurse of it.

Limpsfield, 20 June, 1905.

SYDNEY OLIVIER.

BRIDGE.

THE ORIGINAL LEAD AGAINST A NO TRUMP
DECLARATION.

"CAVENDISH" says, in his most excellent book on whist, that the object of leading from the numerically strongest suit is to "obtain for the small cards of it a value which does not intrinsically belong to them". The same argument applies, much more forcibly, to the original lead against a No Trump declaration at bridge. When the leader holds the ace, king, and three or four others of a suit, he knows that he is, in all probability, making his opponents a present of the first trick by leading a small card, but he does it in the hope of "obtaining for his small cards in that suit a value which does not intrinsically belong to them". Directly either he or his partner can regain the lead, every card of his suit will be a winning one, with anything like an ordinary distribution of the cards, whereas, if he leads out the king and ace, he will win two tricks for certain, but there the power of his hand will end, and his numerically strong suit will have no value.

The reason why the opening lead should be so different against a No Trump declaration and against a suit declaration, is that, when there is a declared trump, if the dealer does not win tricks with his ace and king on the first two rounds of the suit, he will have no chance of winning tricks with them at all, as they will inevitably be trumped later on. In the No Trump game this danger does not exist, and it will always be worth the dealer's while to give away one certain trick on the chance of winning two or three tricks later in the hand by so doing. Nothing is more satisfactory, or more profitable, than bringing in a long suit against a No Trump declaration, and seeing the small cards of it become as valuable as aces and kings. This is the result which should be aimed at in the opening lead, rather than annexing one or two tricks in a hurry, which may indeed save some small loss, but which cannot save the game. Occasionally, when the declarer has a very strong hand, this policy will lose a trick, and it may possibly entail the loss of the small, or even the grand slam, but that is a slight consideration compared with taking a reasonable chance of saving the game.

Not only is it good policy to give away the first trick with the object of establishing a long suit, but sometimes the second trick in a suit has to be given away with the same object. Say that the leader holds ace, knave, 8, 4, 2 of a suit, and no other possible card of entry. He leads the 4, the dummy puts down the king and two others, and plays a small one, the third hand wins the trick with the queen and returns the suit, now how is the leader to play? If he puts on the ace he certainly wins the trick, but his whole hand is then worth one trick and one only, and he is asking his partner to win three more tricks in order to save the game, supposing the opponents to be nothing up. If, on the other hand, he plays the knave and allows the king in dummy to win the trick, his partner may hold the remaining card of his suit, and one card of entry in another suit, in which case there are five tricks accounted for. It is seeing these chances, and taking these chances, and not being too anxious to win one trick, when winning that one trick ends the possibilities of his hand, that gives the good bridge-player so much advantage over his inferior brother in the No Trump game. The issue of more games hangs on this opening lead against a No Trump call than on any other point in the play of the cards at bridge, and that is the reason why it has been dwelt on at such length in these columns. There is a great element of chance in it, as the position of the remaining cards is entirely unknown, but even chance can be brought within certain limits, and the accumulated experience of our most practised bridge-players having clearly defined the leads which offer the best chances of success, those leads should be rigidly adhered to.

In a previous article it was stated that the rule of leading from the numerically strongest suit was one from which there should be no departure, "unless under very exceptional circumstances". The excep-

tional circumstances referred to are when the leader has absolutely no suit of any trick-making value. With such a hand as

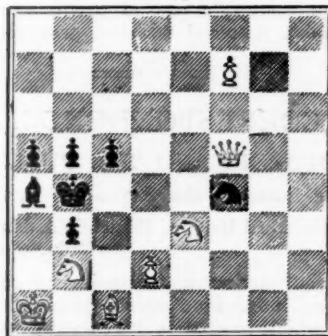
Hearts—Knave, 9, 2
Diamonds—9, 6
Clubs—10, 7, 5, 4
Spades—Knave, 8, 5, 3

the theoretically correct lead would be the 3 of spades, but four spades to the knave is a perfectly hopeless suit to lead from. The hand itself is perfectly hopeless from a trick-making point of view, therefore the leader should, in such a case, depart from rule, and lead the card which is most likely to help his partner. With the hand given above it would be the knave of hearts. It is a very forlorn hope, and only to be resorted to in extremis, but sometimes it will come off and retrieve an otherwise impossible situation. When the leader has an absolutely hopeless hand, containing no suit of more than four cards, and no strength in that, he should lead his best heart, especially if the declaration has been passed and the call made by dummy. The only information that a passed No Trump call gives to the opponent is that neither the dealer nor the dummy has a strong heart hand; they may have protection in the suit, but neither of them can be very strong in it or they would have declared hearts; therefore a heart is the best bow to draw at a venture. This strengthening lead is fraught with great danger, as it requires an intelligent partner to grasp the situation and to understand that it is a strengthening lead, otherwise he may sacrifice a high card in the suit with the idea of unblocking, but desperate situations demand desperate measures.

CHESS.

PROBLEM 28. BY A. SHINKMAN.

Black 7 pieces.



White 7 pieces.

White to mate in two moves.

Solutions to above will be duly acknowledged

KEY TO PROBLEM 26: 1. B-B5.

KEY TO PROBLEM 27: 1. Q-B8.

In most accounts of the Ostend Chess Tournament readers of British newspapers have been treated to a gratuitous form of humbug which it would be well to put an end to. Repeatedly Teichmann and Leonhardt are placed in juxtaposition with Blackburne and Burn as representatives of this country. This serves no other purpose than to mislead. That the former have made many friends in this country and are well known here are very good reasons why their games should be selected for the delectation of British readers, but not sufficient to impose a nationality upon them other than their own. With equal reason Hackenschmidt and Richter will also be presented as British types of physical and artistic development when it will be superfluous to talk of physical deterioration or decadent music.

The following game is remarkable from the fact that by the laws of the Tournament Teichmann was

compelled to exact a penalty from Burn for the infraction of a certain rule. This gave him sufficient advantage of material to win easily, but he lost; primarily through over-confidence.

RUY LOPEZ.

| White | Black | White | Black |
|------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Teichmann | Burn | Teichmann | Burn |
| 1. P-K4 | P-K4 | 8. P-Q4 | B-Q2 |
| 2. Kt-KB3 | Kt-QB3 | 9. QKt-Q2 | P x P |
| 3. B-Kt5 | P-QR3 | 10. P x P | P-Q4 |
| 4. B-R4 | Kt-B3 | 11. P-K5 | Kt-Kt |
| 5. Castles | P-Q3 | 12. Kt-B1 | P-KKt3 |
| 6. R-K1 | B-K2 | 13. B-R6 | K-R1 |
| 7. P-B3 | Castles | | |

Burn here touched the king's rook, and as it cannot be legally moved he was compelled to move the king. This of course entailed the immediate loss of the exchange, and many players would have resigned in disgust. The coolness which is associated with Burn's name once more asserts itself; so exact is his play from this point that it is not easy to discern the disadvantage under which he is labouring.

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|-------|
| 14. B x R | B x B | 18. R-K2 | Kt-K4 |
| 15. Kt-K3 | P-QKt4 | 19. P x P | P x P |
| 16. B-Kt3 | B-K3 | 20. B-B2 | R-Kt1 |
| 17. P-QR4 | B-QKt5 | 21. Kt-K1 | ... |

White underrated the weakness of his queen's pawn or imagines its fate immaterial. Otherwise this indifferent move is inexplicable.

| | | | |
|------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| 21. ... | Kt-B5 | 26. Kt-B5 | B-B1 |
| 22. Kt-Q3 | B-B1 | 27. R-B2 | P-B4 |
| 23. P-QKt3 | Kt-R6 | 28. Kt-R4 | Kt-Kt2 |
| 24. P-B4 | P-Kt5 | 29. B-Kt1 | Kt-K3 |
| 25. R-Q2 | Kt-Kt4 | 30. Kt-B2 | P-B4 |

White ought to have found time to play K-R1, when many of the threats would have been obviated. It seems now that black obtains a winning position.

| | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------|
| 31. P x P | Kt x QBP | 35. R-Q3 | B-QR3 |
| 32. R-B3 | Kt x Kt | 36. R x Kt | QP x R |
| 33. P x Kt | Kt-B6 | 37. Kt-K3 | B-B4 |
| 34. Q-K1 | P-Q5 | 38. Resigns | |

White cannot stop the passed pawns except at the cost of valuable material with no prospects of recuperation.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MOTURING AND THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Hartford Bridge, Winchfield, Hampshire,
1 July, 1905.

SIR,—In your article on Motoring of 24 June, you allude to two important points namely the present speed limit, which you say is "generally considered as the weakest spot of the Motor Act of 1903" and the police evidence in cases where this speed is exceeded which you describe as "usually palpably of an untrustworthy character". You further add that "the offence is usually committed on an open and deserted road". As I have recently carefully studied these questions, it may be of interest if I may be permitted to give my experiences thereon. I should commence by saying that for many months I was entirely in accord with the views expressed in your article which, as far as I can gather, still represents the popular idea on the subject. It was not until I put the points to the test of practical experience that I came to the opinions I am about to record.

Like the rest of the public I had for the last few years read reports of prosecutions in which policemen swore to "thirty to forty miles an hour" and the motorists averred they were only going at "twelve or fifteen". The constant repetition of such cases, coupled with letters from aggrieved motorists in which they described the ignorance of the police in using stop-watches or in calculating distances, made me, and doubtless many others also, inclined to doubt the police evidence. Since for very many years I have had to concern myself with various topographical problems in which the speed of animals, vehicles or machines and the measurement of distances were involved, I determined to investigate for myself the vexed point of the speed of motor cars under ordinary conditions.

In order to allow of my conclusions being verified and duly checked by any who may care to do so it will be necessary to describe the precise locality I deal with and it is of course open to anyone to verify the exactness of my description.

My cottage stands between the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth milestone from Hyde Park Corner on the main road from London to Basingstoke whence branch the Winchester-Southampton and the Andover-Salisbury-Weymouth roads. In the coaching days it was known as "The White Hart" and over thirty coaches as well as many post-chaises &c. passed by it daily. It is consequently in a very favourable position for observing the ways and habits of the new race of road travellers, the much-abused motorists. Across the well-known "Hartford Bridge Flats", between the thirty-second and thirty-fifth milestones, the road is almost absolutely straight and practically level, and there is open heath on either side for some miles. This section of the road therefore affords an ideal spot for rapid motoring and is not seldom used for such a purpose, for it may be fairly described as "open and deserted".

The road on leaving the Flats makes a turn and falls about 100 feet in a quarter of a mile, down "Star Hill" to this cottage and after crossing the Hart stream rises about 30 feet for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile towards Hartley Wintney.

At the foot of the hill where this house stands is a much-used cross-road from Fleet. This constitutes a notorious "dangerous crossing" and has for years been marked by the Cyclists' Union by a danger board at the top of Star Hill, supplemented some months since by a red board. Near the crossing are a number of small houses.

In order to ascertain the speed of the passing cars, I measured various distances adjacent to this cottage and established posts whence I could accurately time passing cars with the aid of a stop watch. This is a far simpler and more accurate process than many people imagine, especially if carried out by anybody accustomed to work with instruments. By utilising certain local landmarks, it was easy to "time" passing cars when working single-handed with great precision. I candidly admit that I was fairly astonished at the results of my first observations. Briefly the result of these observations was that practically every car that came along either up or down hill passed "the dangerous crossing" at over twenty miles an hour! Now this crossing is so manifestly and so peculiarly "dangerous" that it might well be scheduled for a "ten-mile limit" of speed or less. As I decline to believe that the majority of motorists wilfully drive at dangerous speeds, I have endeavoured to account for the fact of this habitual dangerous driving and venture to propound the following reasons:—

(1) That a large number, apparently the majority, of people who use motors have no idea whatever of the speed they travel at and accept the dictum of the driver that they are "not exceeding the limit".

(2) That few people realise the great speed a motor car especially a heavy one quickly acquires when descending a steep gradient like Star Hill.

(3) That even experts at speed, who have raced over the Flats at thirty to fifty miles an hour, are incapable of even approximately estimating the rate they are running, when they suddenly "slow down" to a relatively "reduced speed".

4. That in order to negotiate the steep gradients here, many drivers put on a sharp spurt in the hollow, regardless of the speed limit.

The county police, to whom complaints had been made of the habitual dangerous driving in this locality, duly measured a quarter-mile and took up positions to observe and control the motor traffic.

And here I wish to protest against the foolish manner in which some motorists seek to prejudice the public against the police by styling any effort to restrain their own lawless proclivities as a "police trap". Why a "police trap"? Viewed from whatever standpoint, such an expression is a misnomer. When a cook sets a trap for a mouse in the larder it is commonly styled a "mouse-trap", not a "cook-trap". Again, when a burglar is caught by the police, our hearts do not go out to him as the victim of a "police trap". If it

is necessary to introduce irritating language into the matter, the police arrangements to control reckless motor driving would be far more accurately styled as a "road-hog trap".

But to return to my "motor-control" as I prefer to style it. When the police stopped cars for exceeding the limit of speed, I ascertained in numerous instances the rates they had timed them over their measured distance and in every case that I did so found that they were the same as my own observations taken independently, save indeed where they were slightly less. Thus for example in one instance the police reported "thirty miles an hour" whereas I had made it thirty and a half. In this case I timed the car along the lower portion of the hill when it was travelling faster. Needless to say, the driver stoutly maintained he was not exceeding twenty miles. It was after I had personally taken over a hundred of these observations (many of which I checked with the police subsequently) that I became convinced of the fact that the police evidence as to speed, at any rate in this region, was not only not "palpably untrustworthy", such as you, Sir, describe it to be, "usually", but was absolutely and irrefutably trustworthy. It is most unfair and un-English to hold the police up to abuse, as is too often done by some, and charge them with dishonesty because they carry out orders framed for the general welfare of the community in the only possible way they can be carried out.

Again nothing could be more unlike an "open and deserted" road than this small hamlet with its cross-roads and numerous cottages.

I now append the results of observations taken by me personally of the motors passing this house on ten days during the last six weeks.

Observed speeds of eighty motor-cars taken at Hartford Bridge, half travelling "up" and half travelling "down" the road.

| | |
|--|----|
| Over 18 miles an hour and under 20 miles | 2 |
| " 20 " " " 25 " | 30 |
| " 25 " " " 30 " | 31 |
| " 30 " " " 35 " | 13 |
| " 35 " " " 40 " | 2 |
| " 40 miles an hour | 2 |
| | 80 |

giving an average speed of 25.51 miles an hour.

In order to economise space I have grouped the speeds as shown but I may mention that the most popular pace was 24 to 25 miles an hour, no less than twenty-eight motors adopting it. It is significant to note that under 3 per cent. of those observed would have escaped being fined for exceeding the limit. I have not the least doubt but that these figures will be cited as a proof that all speed limits should be abolished and that reliance should be placed on proceeding against those who drive motor-cars "to the danger of the public".

In reply I would say that at this corner (and there must be hundreds like it throughout England) any speed over five or ten miles might be dangerous to the public. Nobody coming down the hill can possibly know what traffic or persons are approaching from the side roads, nor can motors emerging from the side roads say what may not be coming down hill. Immunity from accident at such and similar localities resolves itself purely into a question of "luck" aided by the strong instinct of self-preservation which makes foot-passengers, cyclists, carriages, carts, &c. approach the cross roads with every precaution.

With no speed limit, cars could fly past this corner at any rate they chose and unless there chanced to be somebody killed or nearly so and also someone else there at the moment to give evidence to that effect and to identify the car, it would be impossible to get a conviction.

The only possible alternative, if the speed limit is to be abolished, is to schedule and mark out all such points as this dangerous corner by red semaphores by day. To control motor traffic by night is a more difficult problem.

It has been argued that no fatal accident has occurred at this corner in three years, true, some dogs have been killed and there have been some sickening shaves of smashes. The main reason why there have been no serious accidents is simply because people out of ordi-

nary regard for their lives naturally avoid spots which are manifestly dangerous. I believe I am correct in saying that the number of people killed whilst playing on the butts in rear of the targets at Bisley is extremely small, but this could hardly be cited as a proof of the absence of danger to such of the public as might elect to resort thither during rifle practice. But the King's highway is not a rifle-range in use nor is it yet specially reserved exclusively for the use of people who honestly do not know (and such I believe to constitute the vast majority of motorists) or of the minority who dishonestly do not care how great is the speed at which they habitually travel along it, not only in "open deserted spots" but when passing "dangerous crossings" or through villages.

Whether the maximum speed limit be abolished or not, the direct outcome of such consistent thoughtless driving as I have here recorded, which no efforts on the part of "considerate drivers" seem able to check, must inevitably be that in the near future the speed of motors passing through villages, near cross-roads and "dangerous corners" will be strictly limited.

Your obedient servant,

WILLOUGHBY VERNER.

THE DUTCH ELECTIONS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The statement of the results of the Dutch General Election, which are derided in your issue of 1 July, is only another example of the unfortunate practice common among the London dailies of publishing bald telegrams concerning the politics of the smaller States of Europe without any attempt at explanation. Will you permit me to throw a little light on its meaning?

The seven groups form two "sides": I. Supporters of Dr. Kuyper's Ministry, now resigned—25 Catholics, 15 Orthodox Protestants, and, an uncertain factor, 8 "Historic Christians". II. The former Opposition—45 Liberals of three sorts and 7 Socialists, but the cohesion of these four groups is very loose. The Catholics are not "Historic Christians" for the excellent reason that the latter are Protestants. They adopted the name, I believe in 1901, as a protest against the assumption of the "Orthodox Protestants"—better known as "Anti-Revolutionaries" (Dr. Kuyper's group)—that they and the Roman Catholics were the only representatives of Christianity, and that ultra-Calvinistic Protestantism represents Christianity in its purest form. But I rather wonder—in passing—that an Anglican paper like the SATURDAY REVIEW should ask why Catholics are not "Historic Christians". I thought Anglicans generally held that the Council of Trent, the Immaculate Conception, and Papal Infallibility deprived Roman Catholicism of its claim to be considered representative of historic Christianity. As a member of the Church of England I have always comforted myself with this belief. But this by the way.

The Liberals of the Right and Liberals of the Left sit on the same side of the House—metaphorically at any rate: I forget how the Dutch Chamber is arranged. The terms only refer to their position in the party. The former will not support manhood suffrage on any consideration; the latter will think about it by-and-by; the Liberal Democrats are prepared to vote for it now. Of course the principal reason why the two former groups oppose it lies in the vigour and militancy of social democracy in Holland.

The issues between the two sides were (1) denominational versus secular education, whence the alliance of the Orthodox Protestants and the Roman Catholics—an alliance cemented, according to the "Cologne Gazette" of last Monday week, by Protestant prayer-meetings for the success of Roman Catholic candidates; (2) in a minor degree, protection for native industry and agriculture. The Orthodox Protestants and the Roman Catholics are largely country parties, and the late premier wanted to raise more revenue to carry out social reforms.

The only group badly defeated is his own, the Orthodox Protestants. But of course the scheme of the late coalition ministry for extending denominational

at the expense of secular education must receive a severe check. As to protection, the outlook is not clear.

In conclusion, may I suggest that the politics of these small countries are worth watching? Some of their questions are very like our own.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. S. M.

[We are obliged to our correspondent for his information, but it does not modify our view that the results of the Dutch elections show representative institutions in a very ridiculous light. Each side of a very small chamber consists of several groups, largely representing distinctions without differences. We should be sorry indeed to take up the petty position that Anglicans are the only historic Christians.—Ed. S.R.]

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Grosvenor Club, Piccadilly, W., 5 July, 1905.

SIR,—Referring to Mr. F. Grenfell Baker's letter, which appeared in the SATURDAY REVIEW for 1 July, and which has deservedly attracted attention, perhaps you will allow me to suggest that—in place of, or in addition to, the qualifications which he advises as being necessary and desirable for all parliamentary candidates—a most useful and effective regulation would be that any aspirant for a place in the House of Commons should be able to show that he has followed in the footsteps of the Prince of Wales, and has spent at least a year in visiting and studying the different portions of the empire.

Of course, it could not, and need not, be a legal enactment, but as a mere custom or convention, if adopted and enforced by the various central political organisations, it would soon be regarded as an important requisite in a candidate's equipment, and indeed, in a short time, as a *sine qua non* to acceptance or to success.

Your obedient servant,
RANKINE DAWSON.

WOMEN'S HOLIDAY FUND.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Bermondsey Settlement, Farncombe Street,
Jamaica Road, S.E., 6 July, 1905.

SIR,—Will you allow me to make an appeal through your columns on behalf of the Women's Holiday Fund? The society provides a holiday of from two to three weeks for a large number of overworked married women in London. This year we have received applications on behalf of 800 women. The help thus obtained is of the greatest benefit not only to the women themselves, but to the general efficiency of their home life, which suffers when overburdened wives and mothers are compelled to drag on without any opportunity of rest and change. The work of the society is further establishing the ideal that holidays are required not merely by the men and by the children, but by the mothers who are often in the greatest need of all. Care is taken to see that those who benefit make such payments as they can afford towards their holiday, but it is quite impossible that these contributions should come near to meeting the total cost of the holidays.

The society is at present urgently in need of funds, and unless considerable contributions are sent a number of the women who have been looking forward to this change for weeks and months past will have to be refused. We urgently beg that those who are at this time looking forward to their own holidays, not only as a source of pleasure, but as indispensable to their health, will send timely help to prevent the work of the society being brought to a standstill.

Any contributions will be most gratefully received by the hon. treasurer, A. S. Daniell, Esq., Fairchildes, Warlingham, Surrey; or by the secretary, Miss M. Synge, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
J. SCOTT LIDGETT.

[We earnestly hope that the money required will promptly be subscribed.—Ed. S.R.]

REVIEWS.

THE EARLY SWINBURNE.

"Tragedies of Algernon Charles Swinburne." Vol. I. The Queen - Mother and Rosamond. London: Chatto and Windus. 1905. 6s. net.

"CHARLES LAMB, as I need not remind you", says Mr. Swinburne in his dedicatory epistle to the collected edition of his poems, "wrote for antiquity: nor need you be assured that when I write plays it is with a view to their being acted at the Globe, the Red Bull, or the Black Friars". In another part of the same epistle, he says: "My first if not my strongest ambition was to do something worth doing, and not utterly unworthy of a young countryman of Marlowe the teacher and Webster the pupil of Shakespeare, in the line of work which those three poets had left as a possibly unattainable example for ambitious Englishmen. And my first book, written while yet under academic or tutorial authority, bore evidence of that ambition in every line." And indeed we need not turn four pages to come upon a mimicry of the style of Shakespeare so close as this:

"We are so more than poor,
The dear'st of all our spoil would profit you
Less than mere losing; so most more than weak
It were but shame for one to smite us, who
Could but weep louder."

A Shakespearean trick is copied in such lines as:

"All other women's praise
Makes part of my blame, and things of least
account
In them are all my praises."

And there is a jester who talks in a metre that might have come straight out of Beaumont and Fletcher, as here:

"I am considering of that apple still;
It hangs in the mouth yet sorely; I would fain
know too
Why nettles are not good to eat raw. Come,
children,
Come, my sweet scraps; come, painted pieces;
come."

Touches of the early Browning come into this Elizabethan work, come and go there, as in these lines:

"What are you made God's friend for but to have
His hand over your head to keep it well
And warm the rainy weather through, when snow
Spoils half the world's work?"

And does one not hear Beddoes in the grim line, spoken of the earth:

"Naked as brown feet of unburied men"?

An influence still more closely contemporary seems to be felt in "Fair Rosamond", the influence of that extraordinarily individual blank verse which William Morris had made his first and last experiment in, two years earlier, in "Sir Peter Harpdon's End".

So many influences, then, are seen at work on the form at least of these two plays, published at the age of twenty-three. "Fair Rosamond", though it has beautiful lines here and there, and shows some anticipation of that luxurious heat and subtle rendering of physical sensation which was to be so evident in the "Poems and Ballads", is altogether a less mature piece of work, less satisfactory in every way, than the longer and more regular drama of "The Queen-Mother". Mr. Swinburne speaks of the two pieces without distinction, and finds all that there is in them of promise or of merit "in the language and the style of such better passages as may perhaps be found in single and separable speeches of Catherine and of Rosamond". But the difference between these speeches is very considerable. Those of Rosamond are wholly elegiac, lamentations and meditations recited, without or against occasion. In the best speeches of Catherine there is not only a more

masculine splendour of language, a firmer cadence, there is also some indication of that "power to grapple with the realities and subtleties of character and of motive" which Mr. Swinburne finds largely lacking in them. A newspaper critic, reviewing the book in 1861, said: "We should have conceived it hardly possible to make the crimes of Catherine de' Medici dull, however they were presented. Mr. Swinburne, however, has done so." It seems to us, on the contrary, that the whole action, undramatic as it is in the strict sense of the theatre, is breathlessly interesting. The two great speeches of the play, the one on page 75 beginning "That God that made high things", and the one on page 197 beginning "I would fain see rain", are indeed more splendid in execution than significant as drama, but they have their dramatic significance, none the less. There is a Shakespearean echo, but is there not also a preparation of the finest Swinburnian harmonies, in such lines as these?

"I should be mad,
I talk as one filled through with wine; thou God,
Whose thunder is confusion of the hills,
And with wrath sown abolishes the fields,
I pray thee if thy hand would ruin us,
Make witness of it even this night that is
The last for many cradles, and the grave
Of many reverend seats; even at this turn,
This edge of season, this keen joint of time,
Finish and spare not."

The verse is harder, tighter, more closely packed with figurative meaning than perhaps any of Mr. Swinburne's later verse. It is less fluid, less "exuberant and effusive" (to accept two epithets of his own in reference to the verse of "Atalanta in Calydon"). He is ready to be harsh when harshness is required, abrupt for some sharp effect; he holds out against the enervating allurements of alliteration; he can stop when he has said the essential thing.

In the first book of most poets there is something which will be found in no other book; some virginity of youth, lost with the first intercourse with print. In "The Queen-Mother" and "Rosamond" Mr. Swinburne is certainly not yet himself, he has not yet settled down within his own limits. But what happy strayings beyond those limits! What foreign fruits and flowers, brought back from far countries! In these two plays there is no evidence, certainly, of a playwright; but there is no evidence that their writer could never become one. And there is evidence already of a poet of original genius and immense accomplishment, a poet with an incomparable gift of speech. That this technical quality, at least, the sound of these new harmonies in English verse, awakened no ears to attention, would be more surprising if we did not remember that two years earlier the first and best of William Morris' books was saluted as "a Manchester mystery, not a real vision", and that two years later the best though not the first of George Meredith's books of verse, "Modern Love", was noticed only to be hooted at. Rossetti waited, and was wise.

EX LUCE LUCELLUM.

"Later Peeps at Parliament." By H. W. Lucy. Illustrated by F. C. Gould. London: Newnes. 1905. 6s.

MR. LUCY'S light is beginning to sputter and burn low. This we say not in malice, but in all charity, that he may husband it for the years to come. We are "informed and believe", to borrow the phrase of an affidavit, that Mr. H. W. Lucy has made a larger income by scribbling personalities about the Houses of Lords and Commons than any other living journalist has made by any kind of work. At one time Mr. Lucy wrote a daily article about Parliament in the "Daily News"; he wrote a weekly article on the same subject in "Punch" under the title of "Toby M.P."; and he wrote a Sunday article in the "Observer". But this was not all. By a wonderful kind of journalistic syndicate, a London letter from the House of Commons by Mr. Lucy was simultaneously delivered to and appeared in a dozen

provincial newspapers—at least, so we are "informed and believe". No wonder that the remuneration of such a prodigious journalistic output reached a figure that represents the income of a prosperous family physician, or a fashionable junior at the Bar. We do not in the least grudge Mr. Lucy an income that must make the serious leader-writer or able editor pale with envy. The labourer is worthy of his hire; and we have often been amused by Mr. Lucy's personal chit-chat in the press. But when Mr. Lucy solicits the attention of a more reflective and critical public by turning his notes into the form of a book, we feel bound to say that his work is "lucellum", i.e. a small gain or profit. To begin with, Mr. Lucy is, and always has been, quite ignorant of politics. This was discovered, even by himself, when the experiment was made of appointing him editor of a London daily, a trial which did not last long. Mr. Lucy can describe "a scene" in the House of Commons as vividly as anyone; he can prattle amusingly about "Prince Arthur" on the Front Bench; and he can impart to us the interesting fact that an octogenarian M.P. drinks water and eats bananas. But when it comes to writing anything like a consecutive account of a session of Parliament, Mr. Lucy is helpless and hopeless, because he never has the faintest idea of what is going on below the gallery. Very likely, knowing his limitations, Mr. Lucy has never tried to understand any of the political questions, which he has heard argued by the masters of debate for the last thirty years. This avoidance of politics may be wise on Mr. Lucy's part: but it naturally deprives his books of any semblance of historical value, such as attaches to the Letters of Walpole or the Diaries of Greville. In the next place, most of Mr. Lucy's anecdotes "have already received the meed of parliamentary approbation", if we may filch the sarcasm which Disraeli levelled at Peel's quotations from the classics. To put it more coarsely, most of Mr. Lucy's stories are not new, and some of them are obviously not true. We do not object to "chestnuts" so strongly as some people, but we bargain that if they are very old and very well known they ought to be told about the right people. Now the story of the elector's ejaculation, "It's a pity your mother wasn't barren too", belongs not to the late Baron de Worms (Lord Pirbright) but to the present Lord Wandsworth, the son of Baron Stern. Of the story that an elderly M.P. was awakened in his hotel by the telephone shouting, "Are you there?" it is perhaps harsh to say that it is untrue, because there may be a telephone which shouts before the receiver is placed to the ear. But we can solemnly assert that we have never come across such an instrument. And further we take our life in our hand and say that Sir Herbert Maxwell never saw a borough member stopped from entering the House in his spurs by the doorkeeper's remark that such a privilege was confined to county members. But notwithstanding its many irrelevancies and inaccuracies and trivialities, there are some valuable and interesting passages in "Later Peeps". Mr. Lucy has always been rather a statesman's pet; he has been in country houses, where real politics are talked by men who know. There is an interesting discussion by an unnamed politician as to the future leader of the Liberal party, in which there is a sensible and too rare appreciation of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman; and it is worth learning that Mr. Gladstone, on being asked who would succeed Lord Salisbury, answered at once and with deep conviction, "the Duke of Devonshire". Mr. Lucy writes of Sir William Harcourt with that warmth and tenderness which is displayed by all who came in personal contact with him. It is sad to know that the last hours of the great parliamentarian, when he seemed to the outer world to have got everything which he could desire, were passed in gloom and despondency. We do not wish to discourage Mr. Lucy; but we cannot advise him to publish any more Peeps at Parliament. The truth is that the market for Lucy ware has gone off. Mr. Lucy himself admits that since the disappearance of Disraeli and Gladstone the House of Commons is no longer "the observed of all observers". It has to struggle for attention with such vulgar competitors as duchesses and millionaires and cricketers, and its

glory has departed. There is not an individual on either side of the famous assembly about whose opinions, or prospects, or even appearance, the public cares a row of pins. And so the occupation of the descriptive lobbyist is gone.

OTHER ASPECTS OF LHASA.

"Lhasa and its Mysteries, with a Record of the Expedition of 1903-1904." By L. Austine Waddell. London: Murray. 1905. 25s. net.

SO much has been written upon the diplomatic and military aspects of the recent expedition to Lhasa that we may now turn lightly to other results of this great enterprise. Fortunately there was attached to the staff Colonel Waddell, of the Indian Medical Service, who by much travel on the borders and within the territory of Tibet, and a knowledge of the Tibetan language, combined with a prolonged study of Buddhism, had qualified himself to an unusual degree for the appointment. At Darjeeling Dr. Waddell was for some years in daily contact with thousands of Tibetans, Lamas, and laity, and he made use of this opportunity to compare Tibetan beliefs and rites with those which pass under the Buddhist name in Ceylon, Burma, China, and Japan. We may therefore accept the statements made in "Lhasa and its Mysteries" as an authoritative description, so far as opportunity allowed, of the inner life of the people.

The essential fact of Tibet which affects all aspects of life is its altitude, an immense block of land consisting of plains, hills and mountains bodily thrust up to a minimum height of 11-12,000 feet. The southernmost and least elevated terrace which gradually increases in breadth from west to east forms the valley of the great Tsangpo river which after skirting the Himalaya to the east is known as the Bramaputra. This is a fertile region and supports a large and industrious agricultural population. The middle terrace of upland pastures is inhabited by pastoral nomads, its height averages from 13-15,000 feet and it is an area of scattered lakes and few rivers. Northward of this is the great Chang-tang tableland, a desert without permanent settlements and averaging 15,000 feet above sea level. Nearly the whole circumference of Tibet is surrounded by an impassable barrier of precipitous mountains indented by a few difficult passes.

Tibet is also subject to that continuous desiccation which has had such a profound effect upon the human history of extra-tropical Asia. There is every reason to believe that when this country received its first human inhabitants the greater part of it was more or less inhabitable, now roughly speaking one-third is fertile arable land, one-third steppe country, and one-third a desert waste. With but one exception there has therefore been no inducement for outside nations to endeavour to overcome the enormous difficulties of the natural barriers which protect Tibet, and hence migration has been rather away from than towards that country. The chief breaks in the mountain girdle occur in the south-east and by these the Chinese have maintained their hold upon Tibet and communication is easy as far the upper waters of the Indus.

While Tibet may be regarded as part of the cradleland of the Mongolian race, the population now appears to consist of two well-marked and equally prevalent types, "the one round-headed, flat-faced, and oblique-eyed, approximating to the pure nomad of the steppes (Sok), the other longer-headed with nearly regular features, a fairly shapely long nose with a good bridge and little of the 'Kalmuk' eye, approximating to the Tatars of Turkestan and the nomads of the great Northern plateau (Hor). It was noticeable that a large number of the nobility and higher officials belonged to this longer-headed and longer-nosed group, which seemed also to comprise many of the Mohamedan Balti coolies who had come with us by way of India from their country bordering the Pamirs". This dual element in the population has also been noted by earlier observers; in the steppes to the north the Sok-pa roam the eastern plains and valleys while the Hor-pa occupy the western, these latter according to

Professor Keane are the only members of the Turki stock who profess Buddhism.

Dr. Waddell gives a pleasing picture of the genial valley of Gyantsé in early spring. The country was carpeted with masses of beautiful flowers. "From every hamlet the cottagers had swarmed out into their fields and were busily ploughing and sowing in the glorious sunshine, forming pleasing bits of bright colour". Oxen and yaks were gaudily bedecked, and "close behind the ploughers came the gaily dressed women as the sowers, scattering broadcast the seed from their baskets. Most of them, men and women, were humming snatches of song in light-heartedness". Here and elsewhere, even in Lhasa itself, the people were found to be friendly when uninfluenced by their priests or by Chinese officials. "It was almost always a good-humoured grinning crowd that gathered round us, and smiled in childlike pleasure at our lavishness, or stared with open-eyed curiosity at our strange ways, invariably respectful, though never cringing. Seldom was a sullen face seen, except amongst the Lamas."

One great drawback of these people is the filthy state in which they keep their persons, their houses and their streets; once a year there is a great ceremonial bathing festival when everyone is supposed to indulge in this luxury for once, at least, during the year. We are told that "no 'lady' in Phari society with any pretensions to good manners would be so indiscreet as to wash her face or hands, for she would at once be considered not quite respectable or something worse were she to do so". The love of jewelry is one of the leading traits of a Lhasaite; the partiality of the Tibetans for turquoise and coral is remarkable. Marco Polo remarked that "coral is in great demand in this country ['Tebet'] and fetches a high price". They believe that turquoise guards against the Evil Eye and brings good luck and health, it also wards off contagion and when it changes colour and blanches it betokens mischief or sickness, and then they promptly get rid of it for a full-coloured one.

The people still believe in the shamanistic ideas and practices of their forefathers. Every Tibetan believes implicitly in oracles and that hermits in the mountains and monks in their cloisters can become adepts in the black art and foretell the future, raise spirits from the dead, and conjure up to their assistance the demons of darkness. Much faith is put in astrology and the priests foster the idea that the evil effects of planets are to be foreseen and counteracted only by themselves. A considerable proportion of priests become professional astrologers and prescribe ostensibly for the "benefit" of the laymen a large amount of costly ritual; it is by these exactions from the laity that the monasteries mainly live. The oracular forms of divination are, however, not dependent on astrology, but on demoniacal possession, and are practised by professional oracles and wizards, who are survivals of the old pre-Buddhist religion of the country. The chief Oracle is attached to the principal state monastery, for, notwithstanding its un-Buddhist character, this gross form of heathen sorcery was so deeply rooted in the minds of the people that that crafty ruler, the first Dalai Lama, brought it into the order of the Lamas. Here are a couple of the oracular utterances: "Even the nibbling rabbit can gorge itself to death" [Exhorting an official to give up peculation or he will come to grief]. "Father wolf secures the sweet flesh while sister fox gets the blame" [A warning that slyness does not pay]. In one room of the great temple or "House of the Gods" at Gyantsé are collected hideous colossal images of all the demons which infest the world and prey upon the poor Tibetans. They mostly belong to the pre-Buddhist indigenous pantheon, the Bon, and are worshipped with offerings of blood and spirits as well as of grain, poisons and tobacco. Here too are hung the ogres' masks which are used in the devil-dances in which the central figure is the black-hatted priest, a survival from the earlier Bon religion.

The form of Buddhism practised in Tibet is extremely debased. The natives have been credited with being so deeply imbued with Buddhist principles as not to take life, much less inflict pain, but we now know they are

on occasion sheer barbarians at heart and will hack living prisoners to death in the most brutal manner. The monks generally are of a low type of intelligence, lower than the laity—probably owing to their self-indulgent life—and their discipline is rather lax. Dr. Waddell noticed in a monastery near Lhasa "they had figured the lucky fly-footed cross, the swastika, in the reverse way, that is, with the feet going not in the diurnal course of the sun, but in the opposite direction, which is the form of this symbol used by the non-Buddhists, the indigenous Black-caps, the Bon, the use of which is regarded by Lamas as wicked. When I pointed this out to the chief Lama of the convent of thirty monks, he did not realise the mistake he had made". Again, contrary to the tenets of their religion, the monks feed mainly upon animal flesh except the few who have taken the higher vows. The Lamas evade the Buddhist prohibition to take life by employing butchers to do it for them, but they do not allow butchers to enter the Order. When no butchers are available, it is usual for the Lamaist to drive the cattle over a precipice, or make the beast strangle itself.

Dr. Waddell visited the neglected tomb of the Indian monk Atisha who came to Tibet in 1038 A.D. and finding that Lamaism was much tainted by admixture with devil-worship founded a reformed order upon a purer Buddhist model, which afterwards became the Yellow-cap sect and now as the State church holds the entire secular government of the country. None of the Lamas teaches the laity as in Burma and other Buddhist countries, nor do they preach to the people, but keep all their learning to themselves; the laity are thus forced to have their own schools with lay teachers. Beside the wayside shrines are tablets bearing pious or admonitory sentences to improve the minds of passing readers, these are the gifts of devout laymen; the following are examples of this secular piety:

"The Five Qualities of Speech.—Speech must be bold as a lion, soft as a gentle hare, impressive as a serpent, pointed as an arrow, and evenly balanced like a sceptre (dorje) held in the middle."

"The Ten Faults.—Want of faith in religious books, disrespect for teachers, unpleasant conduct, covetousness, talking too much, laughing at another's misfortune, using abusive language, getting angry with old people, robbing and pilfering."

One rises from a study of this valuable book with a feeling of profound sadness for the Tibetan peasant. Isolated by nature, isolated by Chinese policy, isolated by ignorant priestcraft he has no chance of improving himself, and his country is impoverished by the enormous population of unproductive priests. Rarely in the history of the world has the hand of the priest been so heavy on a people as here. There is not even the excuse of example or instruction in spirituality, benevolence or learning for the multitude; there are pious and learned men among the priests, it is true, but their lamps are, as it were, hidden under bushels. We have here a clear demonstration of the inherent dangers of an hierarchy. Untrammelled by outside considerations, uninfluenced by new ideas, self-centred and self-satisfied the priests have become parasitic on the people and like animal parasites have become degraded. "I would fain believe", writes Dr. Waddell, "that the mission of England is here not so much to inter decently the corpse of a decadent cult as to inaugurate a veritable dawn, to herald the rise of a new star in the East, which may for long, perhaps for many centuries, diffuse its mild radiance over this charming land and interesting people".

"A DAUGHTER OF DREAMS."

"Demeter." A Mask. By Robert Bridges. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 1905. 1s. net.

Music to "Demeter." By W. H. Hadow. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 2s. 6d. net.

THE genesis of the Greek myth is one of the great problems of literature, and the solutions offered are many and diverse. We are told that the myths are irresponsible children's tales, to be disregarded by the serious scholar, or we are asked to believe that

they embody a profound system of symbolism; we have them rationalised, as by Euhemerus, and thereby robbed of all their grace, or, with the advance of comparative anthropology, we find them referred to fetishism and animism, or explained away by Max Müller as "a disease of language". The last theory that the myths are merely fanciful presentations of natural phenomena has been exploited to the full, and has held its own for some considerable time, even in the face of that most deadly foe to theory, ridicule and parody. But there is more in the old Hellenic tales than this, and the myth of Demeter and Persephone is an admirable example of the truth in the mythopoeic fancy of the Greeks, and how variously it can be interpreted by poets and philosophers. The fair girl torn away by an awful power from her mother, the mother's agony, the vengeance that she wreaks, the joy of the ultimate but partial reunion, the mother's new outlook on humanity, are a vital and perennial subject for study and elaboration. But the mother is a great goddess—the Tith-Mother—and the Power that robs her is Pluto, King of Hades, and the Nether Glooms; the earthly bereavement is raised to a higher plane, but loses no jot of its poignancy. Moreover recent research into the Mysteries of Eleusis has shown them to lie at the very beginnings of the Greek religion, and so poetic fancy and religious awe join hands and shed immortal lustre on the Mother and the Maid. And how the poets love the tale! The Homeric hymn with its archaic simplicity and strength, the exquisite "flower-piece" of the "Winter's Tale", the lingering allusiveness of Milton's references lead us on through Walter Pater's exquisite prose-poem to Tennyson and to Proserpine's especial poet. To Swinburne the ravished maiden is at one time the wan mysterious queen of shadows, swaying a grey and passionless underworld:

"Pale, beyond porch and portal,
Crowned with calm leaves she stands
Who gathers all things mortal
With cold immortal hands."

At another time she is the champion of dying Hellenism, the last hope and stay of her aged priest, baffled and broken by the triumph of the "pale Galilean"; to him she is still supreme, for she has the last boon in her keeping—

"Thou art more than the Gods who number the
days of our temporal breath,
For these give labour and slumber, but thou,
Proserpina, death."

Now Mr. Bridges has fallen under the spell. "Demeter" was written for and produced by the students of Somerville College, and the present work is avowedly an acting edition, but here it will be considered from the point of the study not the stage. Mr. Bridges has "spiritum Graiae Camenæ" by no means "tenuem", and probably no work of his, so inspired, could be an absolute failure, but "Demeter" will not greatly enhance his well-won poetic reputation.

The versification, where he is content to be normal, is easy and flowing, the diction graceful and worthy of the subject, but the beauty of the myth is too often overlaid with philosophisings which are not startlingly original. He has felicities of thought and expression, as in Demeter's description of the "Limbo" of Hades—

"The fruitless and unseasoned plain
Where all lost things are found again;
Where man's distract imaginings
Head-downward hang on bat-like wings,
'Mid mummied hopes, sleep-walking cares,
Crest-faln illusions and despairs,
The tortured memories of crime,
The outcasts of forgotten time."

Indeed all Demeter's speech here is marked by sympathetic insight and restrained power of description. On the other hand, on p. 50, there is a passage which aims at the powerful and achieves only the unpleasant.

"This cavern lies
In very midmost of deep-hollow'd hell.
O'er its torn mouth the black Plutonic rock

Is split in sharp disorder'd pinnacles
And broken ledges, whereon sit, like apes
Upon a wither'd tree, the hideous sins
Of all the world: once having seen within
The magnetism is heavy on them, and they crawl
Palsied with filthy thought upon the peaks;
Or, squatting thro' long ages, have become
Rooted like plants into the griping clefts;
And there they pullulate, and moan, and strew
The rock with fragments of their mildew'd growth."

Mr. Bridges' eccentricities of scansion and spelling must not be passed over. He has elsewhere defended his quantitative system for the imitation of classic metres. Here is his best effort in this direction. (These, he tells us, are *alcaics*.)

"Lo where the virgin veiled in airy beams,
All-holy Morn in splendour awakening,
Heaven's gate hath unbarred, the golden
Aerial lattices set open."

And here is the qualitative method:

"O mighty-mouthed inventor of harmonies,
O skilled to sing of Time or Eternity,
God-gifted organ-voice of England,
Milton, a name to resound for ages."

His excursions into phonetics can only be noticed briefly. He is, by his own confession, but half-hearted therein, but "delite" once should be "delite" always (lines 71 and 72). All such experiments seem to harmonise neither with the subject nor the occasion. We like Mr. Bridges better as a poet than as a pedant.

The music may be dismissed in a few words. Probably it sounded very well at the performance, but reading it through calmly in one's study it must be pronounced dull Mendelssohn stuff. Mr. Hadow is of course an accomplished musician and a very advanced one; but either he is not inventive or he has written these sweet strains to oblige a friend. It is really too late in the day to write this kind of music: it is perfectly easy for Mr. Hadow not to write at all.

THOMAS CRANMER.

"Thomas Cranmer and the English Reformation, 1489-1556." By A. F. Pollard. New York and London: Putnam, 1905. 6s.

THE author of this very able and interesting volume makes a remark in his preface which goes far to explain the failure of Macaulay and even of Hallam to do justice to Cranmer. The main facts of his career were of course at their command; what they lacked was material of the kind that might have assisted them to account for the facts. The "obscurity" which is sometimes said to surround Cranmer's figure lies "not in his character but in the atmosphere which he breathed, and atmosphere is the most difficult of all things to re-create. . . . A failure to realise this unfamiliar atmosphere vitiates most of the estimates of Cranmer's career and character, and notably those of the Whig school, represented by Hallam and Macaulay". It is strange indeed how little account has been taken by such writers of the intricate cross-currents of feeling and opinion which agitated the sixteenth century; how little of the sentiments which had contributed to the influence and prestige of monarchy in Europe; how little of the inner history of that conflict between the civil and ecclesiastical power which only reached its climax under the Tudor sovereigns. Indeed "the forces which made reform inevitable have been completely left out of sight, and the supremely inadequate theory has gained ground that the whole movement originated, first, in Henry VIII.'s desire for Anne Boleyn, and, secondly, in the greed of the laity for the spoils of the Church". Historians have sometimes re-echoed the language of the shameful confession—probably drawn up, as Mr. Pollard suggests, by Cardinal Pole—which Cranmer was forced to sign on the eve of his death: "I did exceeding great wrong to Henry VIII. and especially to his wife Queen Catherine when

I became the cause and author of their divorce; which crime, indeed, was the seed-plot of all evils and calamities to this realm." The question of Catherine's marriage was, indeed, only the occasion of a breach between England and Rome which had for long been inevitable; and a wider knowledge of the actual system of Papal dispensations and of the abuses connected with them, has led recent writers to deal more leniently with the principal actors in the divorce case. There is a disposition to allow that even Henry's scruples were real and that Cranmer's part in the proceedings was dictated by honest conviction not less than by considerations of policy. There can be no question that independent study and reflection had led Cranmer to share to the full the distrust and aversion which the Papacy had inspired in England. The language of his final appeal to Mary expresses the conviction of his whole life, "He that knoweth how prejudicial and injurious the power and authority which he [the Pope] challengeth everywhere, is to the crown, laws and customs of this realm, and yet will allow the same, I cannot see in anywise how he can keep his due allegiance, fidelity and truth to the crown and state of this realm". Thus although the occasion which drew him on to the political stage was unfortunate, there can be no doubt that he was acting in the interest of the Church when he sought a *modus vivendi* with the secular power. The supremacy of the Crown as defined by Henry VIII. and modified by the Act of Elizabeth doubtless seemed to churchmen of the sixteenth century the most effectual substitute for the supremacy of the Pope, and at the same time an adequate bulwark against the unrestrained liberty of thought which had worked such havoc elsewhere. As Mr. Pollard tersely observes, "Henry neither liberated nor enslaved the Church; he simply substituted a sole for a dual control".

A conspicuous merit of Mr. Pollard's book is that it holds the balance between a purely theological and a purely historical estimate of the Reformation. He is keenly aware of the close connexion between the Reformation and the growth of national sentiment in England. He draws attention to the fact that the ecclesiastical changes with which the movement began were calculated to appeal to average men who cared chiefly for a practical reformation. The immediate aim of Henry and his advisers was to bring the system of the Church into closer touch with actual needs and to restrain the abuses which had robbed religion of reality and spiritual power. As regards points of doctrine, and especially the doctrine of the Eucharist, Cranmer's mind exhibits a slow but continuous advance. We find him first abandoning the dogma of transubstantiation while retaining his belief in the Real Presence, and finally accepting the view of a subjective Presence. "Christ", he says (and this seems to be his final position) "is effectually present and effectually worketh not in the bread and wine but in the godly receivers of them". On the other hand, he protests against the prohibition of kneeling at communion which some "turbulent spirits" (Knox and others) were eager to insert in the Prayer Book of 1552. It should be remembered to Cranmer's credit that his "firmness saved the custom of kneeling" and that he was not really responsible even for the "Black rubric".

Cranmer was in many respects the man whom the English Church really needed in the crisis of the Reformation. He was a convinced and consistent supporter of the new learning, and through evil and good report defended its claims. He stood, in a word, for that frank acceptance of Scripture as the sole basis of doctrine and for that appeal to sound learning on which the Anglican position ultimately rests. From this point of view it is difficult to overrate the services which Cranmer rendered to the Church. He was a man of large projects and he knew that opportunities, to be effectively used, must be carefully prepared for. Under Henry VIII. he was the principal mover in the effort to secure an authorised English version of the Bible. Under Edward VI. his untiring industry bore fruit in the English litany and in the first and second books of Common Prayer. If it be true that the Prayer Book gave the Church of

England "unity, strength, and a way to the hearts of men such as no other Church could boast", it is only fair to acknowledge the debt which she owes to the learning, the diligence, the cultivated taste, the "typically English mind" of Cranmer. Those who criticise him and compare him unfavourably with Luther or Calvin conveniently ignore the fact that the problem he had to solve was one that never presented itself to them. He had to consider "how truth could be translated into action and imposed on a doubting people; to him compromise was essential, for he was a statesman as well as a theologian; he lived and moved in a practical sphere in which ideals and abstractions could play but a limited part". His task, as a recent writer has described it, was that of "accommodation and reconciliation between king, hierarchy, lords, commons, and people". It is characteristic of the continuity of the Reformation movement in England, that the reforms at which Cranmer aimed were in great measure those which Wycliffe had advocated in the fourteenth century. "It involves a distortion of terms", says Mr. Pollard, "to label [the Church of England] at any time Lutheran, Zwinglian, or Calvinistic".

The intervention of Cranmer in politics was not so conspicuously unsuccessful as has been sometimes represented. It should be remembered to his honour that he retained the esteem and respect of Henry to the hour of the King's death, and this not as the result of an invariable "servility of mind", but as the reward of a consistency and simplicity of character which touched the finer chords in Henry's nature. A certain hesitancy of mind—what may be called a certain "modernity" of intellectual habit—may account for much that was mistaken in Cranmer's political action and much that is distressing to contemplate in the waverings of his later career. He had what men of coarser and narrower mould, Gardiner for instance, had not—a dim sense of the many-sidedness of truth and of the complexity of all human questions, which made him instinctively shrink from strong statements and swift decisions. Yet he was never deficient in courage when conscience was once convinced. "He alone, so far as we know, tried to save the monks of Sion from the block; he alone interceded for Fisher and More, for Anne Boleyn and for the Princess Mary, for Thomas Cromwell and Bishop Tunstall. He told Henry VIII. that he had offended God, and Cromwell that the Court was setting an evil example. He maintained almost unaided a stubborn fight against the Act of Six Articles and resisted longer than anyone else the Duke of Northumberland's plot. He refused to fly before danger at Mary's accession; and for two and a half years withstood without flinching the pressure of a sixteenth-century prison. If then for a month he wavered between his duty to the State and that to his conscience; if finally, he tried to concede that impossible change of belief which his inquisitors required, he redeemed his fault by a heroism in the hour of death to which history can find few parallels."

We are grateful to Mr. Pollard for his fine vindication of a man who was not without elements of true greatness. By his industry, his singleness of aim, his unworldliness of character, his final triumph over his persecutors, Cranmer did the work and bore the witness which his age needed. He deserves to hold a higher place in the illustrious line of English archbishops than has hitherto been assigned to him.

NOVELS.

"A Country Bunch." By Mrs. Henry Dudeney. London: Hurst and Blackett. 1905. 3s. 6d.

Here is a dozen short stories with never a ha'porth of cheerfulness in the bunch. Mrs. Dudeney can write with effect when she is not straining after it, but she sometimes recalls the aphorism, described by Mr. Gilbert, "which of course was very clever but I couldn't understand it". There is an essay in symbolism in the volume ("The Traveller Swan") which seems to us merely bewildering. A swan flies from a common, and a strange woman comes to a cottage and wins its master's heart. She then goes away, and he fails to find her though he climbs a hill. The lady says

nothing, and the bird, as we all know from our natural history books, is the Mute Swan. Whether there is any closer resemblance or identity we cannot say, but the story is what used to be called very soulful. In a grimmer story Mrs. Dudeney gives us an appendix to "L'Art d'être Grand-père". If a lady is so unfortunate as to murder her husband, what will her grand-daughter say in years to come? It is an essentially modern problem: Orestes took care that Clytemnestra should not live to meet a grand-daughter. Another story suggests that a girl should be very sure of a man before she commits murder for his sake. But Mrs. Dudeney can give us very telling incidents in rural life. Her story of a bellows-maker with an artist's soul, who took to making pot-boilers when he wished to marry, treats an old theme with refreshing novelty, and there is an effective sketch of a man spending his holiday at a farmhouse who fell in love, called prudence to his aid—and lost his chance in life. The book, in short, is interesting, though there are more stinging-nettles and deadly-nightshades in the bunch than cowslips or foxgloves.

"This Our Sister." By Mrs. Harold E. Gorst. London: Digby Long. 1905. 6s.

Writing in strong language is not necessarily strong writing; writing of Nine Elms slums with a plentiful dropping of aspirates, a sprinkling of swear-words, and some disgusting personalities is not realism. These are facts which Mrs. Harold E. Gorst would do well to ponder. She appears to have made up her mind to write a novel that should be strong and realistic; she has succeeded in writing one that we find at once nauseous in detail and uninteresting in presentment. Nell Byrne is left a girl in her 'teens with an unhealthy infant brother, and an oath to her dying mother that she will always look after that same infant and always keep respectable. Through a series of sordid chapters we are shown how it was that she strove to carry out her pledge, how she failed, and how at last the river closed the tragic story of her life. The novel is of course written with a "purpose" which is worthy enough, but it lacks true power, and will we imagine disgust many readers and reform none. The men at whom such stories are directed are little likely, we imagine, to seek their entertainment at the circulating library.

"Among the Cranks." By James Greenwood. London: Jarrold. 1905. 3s. 6d.

Fifteen short stories of the doings of the unhappy inmates of lunatic asylums—such is the latest book by the writer who as "The Amateur Casual" many years ago gained the attention of a wide audience. The volume will scarcely add to Mr. Greenwood's reputation unless there are more readers interested in a peculiarly morbid form of entertainment than we imagine to be the case. In a preface entitled "Author's Introduction" Mr. Greenwood says: "However true it may have been in times past, when 'Bedlam' was a show place, and holiday-making horror-seekers paid their shillings at the gate to enter and see their maniac fellow-creatures chained and treated generally much the same as wild animals are, it is no longer a fact that life in a lunatic asylum is a topic best avoided, its discussion being bad for the nervous system, and likely to cause terrifying dreams at night time." There is a happy medium between avoiding a topic and making it a means to entertainment, and we confess to a feeling of distaste for these tales of mentally deranged men and women. Mr. Greenwood has some ingenuity in the devising of his stories and an easy manner in telling them, but reading one after the other we find that they have a depressing effect, of a cumulative kind.

THE JULY REVIEWS.

Russia's collapse in the Far East and the international issues it has opened up is the theme of many articles in the Reviews. The writers are concerned to discuss the significance not so much of the Japanese advance as of Russia's decline. The "Nineteenth Century" alone devotes five articles to the international problems involved in her defeat. Mr. O. Eltzbacher

discusses the indemnity to Japan which he says Russia must pay if she does not wish to be driven not only out of Manchuria but from the whole of Eastern Siberia as well. He takes the view that Russia is not disgraced by the course of events in the Far East because he thinks she would have found it easier to fight the Triple Alliance in Europe than Japan in a country so far removed from her centre of gravity and power. He advises her to make peace promptly in order to recover the position in Europe which she has compromised. M. de Pressensé attacks M. Delcassé for his weakness as shown first in not using the influence of France to prevent the war, and second in nearly embroiling France with Japan by his failure to appreciate the sinister meaning of Admiral Rojdesvensky's doings in French waters. M. de Pressensé, like Mr. A. F. Harrison who also writes on the subject, shows how the effect of Russia's disasters was to give Germany her chance of defeating the whole object of M. Delcassé's Moorish policy. Mr. Demetrius Boulger finds that Morocco is not the only country whose interests are menaced by Germany: Belgium and Holland have been the objects of German attention in the last few years, and in his view, thanks to the supineness of British diplomacy and the attacks on the Congo Free State, Belgium at any rate is no longer pro-British. Germany he contends is in a favourable position to strike at France and he asks somewhat melodramatically "How is England going to prevent the perpetration of a monstrous iniquity?" He turns for answer to Vienna, and would have British diplomacy inform Austria that England will not swerve a hair's breadth from its determination to stand by France. Mr. Robert Machray considers the change in the European situation from the point of view of sea power: Germany is still l'ennemi. These various articles find an echo in the "National Review" in whose pages the composite "A.B.C. &c." seeks to tell British diplomatists the direction which British foreign policy should take. England must make alliances with the progressive powers of Europe—as though Germany were not one of them—and must be "prepared to enter them for practical ends and for the realisation of ideals beneficial to the world at large". "A.B.C. &c." thinks that England might have used her influence with Japan to avert the war with Russia—a view that will interest M. de Pressensé at any rate.

Mr. H. W. Wilson in the "National" tells the story of "Japan's Trafalgar", whilst Mr. Archibald Hurd in the "Fortnightly" assures us that Admiral Togo has won the greatest naval victory in history, not excepting Trafalgar, with ships built in British yards, controlled by officers many of whom were British trained. If Great Britain is to enjoy the "reflected lustre" of Admiral Togo's victory, it is a pertinent question to ask, whether Great Britain has not also something to learn from Japan's naval triumph? Mr. L. Cope Cornford in the "Monthly" thinks she has, and writes a lengthy article to prove that the moral of the fight in the Sea of Japan is "the inestimable and prime importance of the man as distinguished from his weapons". "Blackwood" of course strikes a novel note; Admiral Togo reminds Maga's British Admiralty critic rather of Blake than Nelson. The question of national defence is discussed in the "Nineteenth Century" by the Duke of Argyll and Sir William White, in the "National" by Major-General Sir Edmund Barrow and in the "Monthly" by "J. C." and "Stratiotes". The Duke of Argyll gives "a civilian's impression" that the military resources of the empire are not properly utilised under the voluntary system and urges that it is the Government's duty to see if it cannot give us without conscription results equivalent to those obtained under conscription. He favours conscription but regards it as hopeless. Sir William White's article deals with the maintenance of the fleet and the work done by the Royal dockyards.

In the "Fortnightly" Mr. Joseph Conrad has a somewhat urid article on "Autocracy and War". The Japanese, he says, have laid the spectre, "the decrepit, hundred years old, spectre of Russia's might". "Never before had the Western world the opportunity to look so deep into the black abyss which separates a soulless autocracy posing as, and even believing itself to be, the arbiter of Europe, from the benighted starved souls of its people. This is the real object-lesson of this war, its unforgettable information. And this war's true mission, disengaged from the economic origins of that contest, from doors open or shut, from the fields of Korea for Russian wheat or Japanese rice, from the ownership of ice-free ports and the command of the waters of the East—its true mission was to lay a ghost. It has accomplished it." Mr. Conrad predicts that Europe will not always be able to remove the conflict of battle to distant countries as in the present war: some day "a wealth of appallingly unpleasant sensations" will be "brought home to us with painful intimacy". One direction at least in which the future is regarded with apprehension by certain observers is Scandinavia, on which Mr. E. John Solano writes in the "Monthly". The future of Scandinavia is of vital interest to Russia, to Germany and to England. Mr. Solano is not immediately alarmist, but a weak Scandinavia will invite German or Russian aggression, will be a source of

(Continued on page 62.)

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anxiety to Great Britain, and a menace to the peace of the whole world. He anticipates a time when Russia, "leavened with liberty, industrially prosperous and infinitely powerful, pent up within eighteen miles of the open waters of Norwegian shores" will find the temptation irresistible. Mr. Solano therefore urges the people of Sweden and Norway to preserve the principle of the Union in some form or other and suggests that King Edward should be invited to arbitrate between them in their own as well as Europe's best interest. An article in the "Independent Review" by "A Swedish Patriot" does not encourage hope that even "the principle of the Union" will prove tolerable to the Norwegians.

One of the most interesting articles in this month's reviews is that in the "Nineteenth Century", by Mr. A. N. Cumming, on the secret history of the Berlin treaty as given to him by the late Lord Rowton at Wiesbaden in 1898. The surrender of Russia to Lord Beaconsfield's ultimatum was due entirely to a private telegram sent by Lord Rowton to Cologne ordering a special train to be in readiness. England had put forward four points which Lord Beaconsfield was certain Russia would not concede. He therefore proposed to return to England immediately after Russia's refusal, which was expected at the next sitting of the Congress. His intention was to declare war. Lord Rowton's telegram was naturally brought by the German officials to Prince Bismarck's notice, and he realised that England meant business. By the time the Congress next met, Count Schouvaloff had heard from Prince Bismarck that Lord Beaconsfield was in earnest, and Russia, to Lord Beaconsfield's astonishment, gave way on the points involved. Had Lord Beaconsfield's private secretary never sent the telegram Russia would have believed that Great Britain was merely bluffing.

In the "Fortnightly" appear three articles on the position of women: Mrs. Mona Caird writes on "The Duel of the Sexes", Lady Grove replies to "Lucas Malet" on the subjection of women, and Mrs. John Lane attacks the question of woman's "Extravagant Economy". Whilst Mrs. Mona Caird and Lady Grove combat the idea that woman's status must from natural causes be inferior to man's, Mrs. Lane shows that in one respect at least women are inferior to men: they will make a lunch off a sultana cake in order to attend a sale to buy something cheap which they do not want. Women must be taught "unextravagant economy", she says, both in regard to time and money, because "the day is coming when women's time will really be worth something".

For this Week's Books see page 64.

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WARING & GILLOW.

THE eighth annual general meeting of Waring & Gillow, Lim., was held yesterday at Moorgate Place, E.C., Mr. S. J. Waring, Chairman of the Company, presiding. The Secretary, Mr. Joseph Ritson, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: My first and pleasant duty is to congratulate you on the satisfactory results of the Company's business for 1904, which show a profit, before providing Income-tax, Directors' Fees, and Interest, of £131,531. This profit enables us to pay the 7 per cent. dividend on the Ordinary shares, to put £15,000 to reserve (which will then amount to £115,000), and to carry forward a balance of £13,585 to the current year. These results show that the progressive character of our enterprise, which has always been one of its distinguishing features, is being fully maintained. The year under review was by no means a generally active one for British trade, and the fact that we did so well, notwithstanding the prevalent dullness, may be taken as an indication that we have built upon sure foundations. I may point out that the growth of the annual profits has been continuous. In 1900 the amount, before the deduction of the charges I have referred to, was £77,135; in 1901, £86,201; in 1902, £101,927; in 1903, £149,983; and in 1904, £131,531: the last two items including the dividends received in connection with the Company's holding of ordinary shares in Hampton & Sons, Limited. It will be seen by the report that we were engaged during 1904 in a number of important contracts, many of which—especially the Sultan of Turkey's yacht, the Waldorf and Lyceum Theatres, and the work entrusted to us at the new Savoy Hotel—have won the most favourable opinions of the Press. With our exhibit at the St. Louis World's Fair we carried off two Grand Prizes for Furniture and Decoration, besides Gold Medals for Sanitation, Upholstery, &c.; and we have good grounds for hoping, from the work already placed in our hands, that the impression made will bear fruit in the United States now that they have realised the artistic possibilities of refinement and simplicity in the decorative treatment of their homes. The year 1904 was further signalled by the formation of the Waring-White Building Company, the object of which was to combine the latest inventions and most useful features of American construction with the soundness and stability associated with British methods. I ventured last year to predict that this combination would mark a new epoch in the building trade. It has already fulfilled its promise. Within nine months from the starting of the foundations in Cockspur Street the American Shipping Combine were in possession of their new offices; the Ritz Hotel, in Piccadilly, is being built with a vigorous spirit rarely, if ever, witnessed in England before; and the Company has the Liverpool Cotton Exchange and other important buildings in hand, which will be carried out with the same thoroughness and energy. The Company works upon a scientific basis; it is prepared to build upon a commission based upon cost, or in competition, guaranteeing to erect its buildings within fixed limits of cost and within fixed dates for completion. It is unnecessary to emphasise the advantages to capitalists, where the rapid erection of a building frequently means an economy in interest during construction of many thousands of pounds. Thoroughness, scientific construction, and promptitude are the salient points of the Waring-White Company's programme. The inadequacy and scattered positions of our present London shop space have hitherto to some extent handicapped our efforts. These are disadvantages, however, which will speedily disappear. Most of you, I suppose, have seen the handsome new building which is being erected for our occupation in Oxford Street, and which is rapidly approaching completion. I do not think the Board will be accused of undue vanity if they claim to have done something to help to beautify London. We hope, in these new premises, to assist public taste in the choice of beautiful domestic surroundings, and to bring within the reach of all classes the possibility of artistic excellence in the English Home. We have had to contend with many obstacles and difficulties, but the goal is now in sight, and we hope soon to show you an emporium that has no parallel, to which you can go in the conviction that you will be well treated and fairly dealt by, and where you will get the best value for your money. The large additional space at our disposal will enable us to greatly extend our business by the introduction of many new departments connected with the equipment of a house, for which our present premises have not been sufficiently large. It will be our constant endeavour to secure and keep, in this new departure, that complete public confidence which only good style and good workmanship, combined with moderate prices, can permanently retain. Special consideration will be given to customers who are restricted to a limited expenditure. I desire to emphasise this point of

inexpensiveness. The householder will find in our new premises not only everything he wants, but at competitive prices; and at the same time we shall spare no effort to maintain the high repute of the firm for those qualities of taste, harmony, and proportion which it has consistently and with some success endeavoured to illustrate. With such a programme and with such greatly increased facilities, it is quite reasonable to look forward to a commensurate expansion of business. Your Directors, therefore, cherish the conviction that the opening of the new premises will be an important landmark in the history of the firm, and that there will be a considerable growth in the volume of the business, and necessarily this will be reflected in increased profits. It is more than probable that this will result in the early future in the Deferred Shares becoming a good profit-earning security; but as at present these are almost wholly held by the Waring family and by a trust for the benefit of the employees of the firm, it is the intention of the present Board not to recommend any deferred dividend until the reserve fund reaches the figure of a quarter of a million. This expansion will naturally necessitate an issue of further Capital, which will be offered for subscription forthwith. I need hardly say that in the allotment of this Capital special consideration will be given to the applications of shareholders and customers. You will be pleased to hear that the whole of the Debenture issue made by the Company on its formation has now been repaid, so that the only Debentures now outstanding consist of the Irredeemable First Mortgage Debenture Stock. Although our attention has been largely occupied with the immense amount of detail work in connection with the new premises, nothing has been left undone to advance the interests and prosperity of the Company. As stated in the report, we have on hand, amongst many other important contracts, work on H.M.S. the *Renown* for the Prince and Princess of Wales's Indian trip; a yacht for H.H. the Khedive of Egypt; a new palace for the Maharajah of Kapurthala, which for refinement and practicability will create a new standard amongst the palaces of India, and of which I may say that it will not be an illustration of the aggressively gaudy styles of British art which Lord Curzon deprecates in India; the interior of a new train for the Grand Duke Constantine; the Hamburg-American liner *Amerika*, one of the largest, if not the largest, vessels afloat, which will surpass anything previously carried out in ship decoration; the offices of the International Mercantile Marine Company, Cockspur Street; and many other important contracts; and I am happy to add that our general trade during the current year shows a considerable expansion, which is indicated by the fact that we have now on our books the names of over 35,000 customers. You are shareholders in a business which I ventured to say once before is absolutely in its infancy, and which is now entering upon an era of great promise of progress and development. I would only like to add, gentlemen, that we hope on the next occasion to welcome you all at our new establishment where we propose in future to hold our annual meetings, and where you will have an opportunity of walking through the showrooms and inspecting the premises generally and our methods of business, and of judging whether we have carried out the policy defined above to your satisfaction. I now move the adoption of the report and accounts.

The resolution was carried, and the usual formal business transacted.

This Prospectus has been Filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies in accordance with the Companies Act, 1900. The Subscription List will open on Tuesday, the 18th July, and close on or before Thursday, the 13th July, at 4 P.M. for London, and the following morning for the Country.

WARING & GILLOW, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1893.) Share Capital Authorised, £1,800,000, divided into 100,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, 750,000 Seven per Cent. Cumulative Ordinary Shares of £5 each, and 110,000 Deferred Ordinary Shares of £5 each, of which there has been Issued and Fully paid—200,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £5 each, £500,000; 455,000 Seven per Cent. Cumulative Ordinary Shares of £5 each, £4,550,000; 110,000 Deferred Ordinary Shares of £5 each, £550,000—£1,505,000. Offer at par of £300,000 4½ per Cent. Irredeemable Mortgage Debenture Stock, making with £200,000 the amount already issued to the public, the £500,000 Stock below mentioned, which constitutes a First Charge upon the undertaking of the Company, and 145,000 7 per Cent. Cumulative Ordinary Shares of £5 each, payable as follows:—Debenture Stock, on application, £10 per cent.; on allotment, £40 per cent.; on September 15, 1905, £50 per cent.—£400. Cumulative Ordinary Shares:—25. 6d. per share on application; 75. 6d. per share on allotment; 105. 0d. p.r. share on September 15, 1905—£1.

The £1,000,000 Debenture Stock of the Company is secured by trust deeds creating a specific first mortgage on freehold and leasehold properties of the Company, and a floating charge on all other the assets of the Company, present and future, the Company being precluded from creating any mortgage or charge on such last-mentioned assets ranking in priority to or pari passu with the stock.

By the trust deeds the Company covenants that its stock-in-trade (taken at cost), good book debts, and cash in hand and at bankers', exclusive of freehold and leasehold properties, goodwill, and other general assets, shall not during the continuance of the security fall below the amount of the Debenture Stock for the time being outstanding.

The interest on the Debenture Stock is payable on the 30th June and 31st December in each year. The first payment in respect of the stock now offered will be made on the 31st December, 1905, and will be calculated from the due dates of payment of the several instalments.

The Seven per Cent. Ordinary shares confer the right to a cumulative preferential dividend of seven per cent. per annum before any dividend is paid to the holders of the Deferred Ordinary shares, and to participate with the holders of the Deferred Ordinary shares to the extent of receiving a bonus equal to 100 per cent. on the amount paid up thereon, in surplus assets, which in the winding-up of the Company shall remain after paying off the capital paid up on the Preference shares and the bonus payable thereon, and the capital paid up on the Ordinary and Deferred Ordinary shares.

Trustees for Debenture Stockholders.—John Brownlee Lindsay, Esq., M.P., 13 Prince's Gardens, London, S.W.; George Gregg Fisher, Esq., J.P., Helme Hall, Meltham, Yorkshire.

Solicitors to the Trustees.—Nunn, Popham, and Starkie, 140 Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.

Directors.—Samuel James Waring, John William Waring, Samuel James Waring (the Younger), James Elston Waring, Sidney Marler, Thomas Benjamin Clarke.

General Manager.—Henry Lawrence Peters.

Bankers.—The London City and Midland Bank, Limited, 5 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.; and Branches; Bank of Liverpool, Limited, Water Street, Liverpool and Branches.

Solicitors to the Company.—Hill, Dickinson, Dickinson, Hill, and Roberts, 10 Water Street, Liverpool.

Brokers.—Linton, Clarke & Co., 7 Draper's Gardens, London, E.C.; Rowe, Schwann & Co., 23 and 25 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.; A. M. Sing & Co., 26 Exchange Street East, Liverpool; Robert Whitehead, 25 St. Ann's Street, Manchester; F. W. Bentley & Co., Leeds and Huddersfield.

Auditors.—Franklin, Wild & Co., Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C.

Secretaries and Offices.—Joseph Ritson, 181 Oxford Street, London, W.

Registrar and Transfer and Share Office.—Alexander Goodlett, 20 Copthall Avenue, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

The large pile of buildings in Oxford Street, London, which has been erected for the accommodation of the existing branches of the Company's business at 70-80 Oxford Street, 175-181 Oxford Street, and 401-413 Oxford Street, London, will be in the occupation of the Company before the end of the year. The removal of these new premises and the growing trade of the Company necessitate the provision of further capital.

The company, whose present business was formed by the amalgamation of the firms of S. J. Waring and Sons and of Gillow and Co., has principal establishments in London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Paris, with factories in London, Lancaster, Liverpool, and Paris.

In 1903 the Company purchased, with a view to the development of the business, the ordinary share capital of Hampton and Sons, Limited. Since this purchase

important developments have been, and are in progress of being, made in connection with Messrs. Hampton's business, and the Company continues to own upwards of one-half of the ordinary share capital of Hampton and Sons, Limited.

In 1904 the Company, in conjunction with Messrs. J. G. White & Co., the well-known firm of contractors, formed the Waring-White Building Company, Limited, for the purpose of combining the most useful features of American construction with the best British methods. The Company holds a one-half share in the combination. The building company has opened its career most successfully. It has completed the erection of the new offices of the shipping companies forming the Atlantic Shipping Combine, in Cockspur Street and Pall Mall East, London. It has been entrusted with, and has made most rapid progress in, the building of the Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly, London; and it has secured the contract for the erection of the new Cotton Exchange, in Liverpool, and other important contracts.

The building in Oxford Street which is about to become the Company's principal place of business is nearing completion. Its progress was seriously hampered in the earlier stages by right of light claims, but all of these claims have now been disposed of, rapid progress is being made with the roof, and the scaffolding from the front of the elevation is in process of removal.

The new building, which the directors believe to be one of the finest, if not the finest, examples of shop architecture in the world, stands on a site containing about 40,000 square feet, and has a frontage of 175 feet to the busiest part of Oxford Street. It will contain a floor area of nearly three and a half acres. It has been secured by the Company for eighty years from the 6th January, 1902, on terms which will, it is estimated, impose on the Company an annual charge not exceeding nine thousand pounds (a sum which is less than 1 per cent. on the Company's annual turnover) in excess of the aggregate amount of the rents which the Company is at present paying for the London branches to be accommodated in the new premises.

To deal with all points connected with the erection, furnishing, and equipment of a house, the Company will in this building add some twenty new departments; the showrooms will have an area more than twice as large as that at present available in the existing branches; and the directors have every confidence that this additional accommodation will enable the turnover to be largely increased.

The Company has just completed or has now on hand, amongst other contracts, work at Windsor Castle and Sandringham for H.M. the King; H.M.S. *Renown* for the Prince and Princess of Wales; Bagshot Park and Clarence House for the Duke of Connaught; the Palace of Racconigi for the King of Italy; the Royal Yacht and the Royal Barge for the Sultan of Turkey; the Yacht for the Khedive of Egypt; the Train of the Grand Duke Constantine; the Palace of Prince Nicholas of Greece; the Palace of the Sultan of Johore; the Palace of the Maharajah of Kapurthala; the Spanish Embassy, London; the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg; the Ritz Hotel, London; the Waldorf Hotel, London; the Midland Railway, Northern Hotel, Portsmouth; the Victoria Hotel, Carlisle; the Savoy Hotel, London; the Royal Hotel, Matlock; the North-Eastern Hotel, York; the Royal Exeter Hotel, Bournemouth; the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool; the Queen's Hotel, Blackpool; the Kinver Edge View Hotel; the Waldorf Theatre, London; the Lyceum Theatre, London; the Carlton Club, London; the Sheffield Club; the Ladies' Athletic Club, London; the Club Cantabrico, San Sebastian; the Hamburg-American liner *America*; the offices of the International Mercantile Marine Company, London; the offices of the State Fire Insurance Company, Liverpool; the Pretoria Museum, South Africa; the Delamere Sanatorium; the Mercers' Company; St. Paul's School, London; and the showrooms of Peter Robinson, Limited, London; Abbott and Sons, Paris; and Mansfield, Paris.

During the last five years the company has been awarded two Grand Prix and two gold medals at the Paris Exposition, and two Grand Prizes and two gold medals at the St. Louis World's Fair.

The Company has on its books the names of upwards of 35,000 customers. In the opinion of the directors the new building will afford full opportunity for the development of the Company's general trade; in it every provision will be made to supply the requirements of all the Company's customers, and special consideration will be given to those who are restricted to a moderate expenditure.

The balance-sheet of the Company for the year ending 31st December, 1904, audited and certified by Messrs. Franklin, Wild, and Co., shows that the property and assets of the Company consisted of:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Freehold and leasehold properties, including properties acquired by the Company subject to mortgages or other prior charges, and including £50,000 Irredeemable Debenture Stock, issued in respect of properties in course of erection, plant, machinery, fixtures and fittings, and goodwill | £1,435,445 16 10 |
| Stock-in-trade (at cost) and works in progress (as certified by the managers at the several branches) | 491,849 18 0 |
| Sundry debtor balances (after making a provision for doubtful debts) | 381,086 6 11 |
| Cash and investments (less loans secured on investments) | 355,084 14 8 |
| | £2,673,476 16 5 |

The liabilities of the Company (other than on account of share and debenture capital and reserve, of the mortgages and other prior charges above referred to, of temporary advances on the security of the Company's Irredeemable Debenture stock, and of undivided profits) amounted to 191,786 12 6

Showing a surplus of £2,481,710 3 11

To which must be added:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Cash, being the estimated balance of the proceeds of the Debenture stock and shares now offered, after providing for the repayment of temporary advances made to the Company on the Debenture stock now offered, the same having been issued as paid-up stock by way of security for such advances | 260,000 0 0 |
| | £2,741,710 3 11 |

The net profits of the company, including the dividends received since 1903 upon the Company's holding in the Ordinary shares of Hampton and Sons, Limited, after providing for depreciation but excluding income-tax, directors' fees and interest, for the last five years have been certified by Messrs. Franklin, Wild, and Co., as under:—

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1900 £77,155 14 0 | 1903 £119,983 17 5 |
| 1901 86,201 18 11 | 1904 131,551 15 0 |
| 1902 101,927 14 8 | |
| The interest on the £1,000,000 Debenture stock will amount, per annum, to £45,000 0 0 | |
| The dividend on the Preference shares 30,000 0 0 | |
| | £75,000 0 0 |

Leaving, on the basis of last year's profits, a surplus of £56,561, whilst the 7 per cent. dividend upon the Cumulative Ordinary shares required during that year £31,860.

The directors have every confidence that the profits of the company will be largely increased in the new building, and from the £260,000 of additional capital to be brought into the business from the present issue.

The Company's Debenture stock, Preference shares, and Cumulative Ordinary shares are quoted in the official lists of the London and Liverpool Stock Exchanges, and application for a settlement and quotation of the stock and shares now offered will be made in due course.

The following contracts have been entered into by the Company: (1) Four deeds dated respectively the 8th July, 1897; the 23rd August, 1897; the 28th June, 1900; and the 30th March, 1903, between the Company and John Brownlee Lonsdale and George Gregg Fisher (trustees), under which the Debenture stock is constituted and secured. (2) Dated 21st December, 1900, between John William Waring and Samuel James Waring, junior, of 181 Oxford Street, London, and the Company for the purchase of the site of the Company's proposed new buildings in Oxford Street, London, and of the new buildings to be erected thereon, when and so soon as the same shall be completed, for the sum of £165,000 plus the price to be actually paid by the vendors for acquiring certain outstanding interests in part of the site (since acquired), and plus the actual cost of erecting the new buildings, including all incidental expenses, with interest thereon at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum until payment, and providing for the raising of the whole or of a portion of the purchase price by the creation of a mortgage, or of an improved ground rent, or otherwise as in the agreement mentioned. (3) Dated 8th March, 1904, between the Company,

on the one hand, and the London City and Midland Bank (Limited), on the other hand. (4) Dated 21st June, 1904, between the Company of the one part, and the Waring-White Building Company (Limited), of the other part. (5) Dated the 1st July, 1904, and made between the Company, of the first part, and the said John William Waring, of the second part, the said Samuel James Waring, of the third part, and John Musker, of the fourth part, (6) Five indentures all dated 14th July, 1904, between the Company of the first part, the said John William Waring and Samuel James Waring of the second part, and Edward Partington, the North of England Trustees Debenture and Assets Corporation, Limited, William Murray, the London Trust Company (Limited), and Sir Alfred Hickman respectively of the third part. (7) Dated 28th September, 1904, between the said John William Waring and Samuel James Waring on the one hand and the said John Musker on the other hand. (8) Dated 1st November, 1904, between the said John William Waring and Samuel James Waring of the first part, Benjamin Francis Popham of the second part, and the said John Musker of the third part. (9) Dated 1st November, 1905, between the said John William Waring and Samuel James Waring of the first part, the said Benjamin Francis Popham of the second part, the Company of the third part, and the said John Musker of the fourth part. (10) Contract dated 4th July, 1905, between the Company and Messrs. Linton, Clarke & Co.

There have been issued of the above capital to the vendors, or their nominees, and as part of the purchase price as fully paid, the under-mentioned shares: On the purchase by the Company in 1895 of the business of S. J. Waring and Sons, Limited, 49,000 £1 Ordinary shares. On the purchase by the Company in 1895 of the business of George Donaldson, 1,000 £5 Ordinary shares. On the purchase by the Company in 1897 of the business of Gillo and Co., 5,000 £5 Preference shares, 5,000 £5 Ordinary shares, and 110,000 £5 Deferred Ordinary shares. On the purchase by the Company in 1903 of Ordinary shares of Hampton and Sons, Limited, and of equities in freehold properties, 30,000 £1 Ordinary shares. Of the above-mentioned 110,000 £5 Deferred Ordinary shares issued as fully paid, 27,000 shares have been set aside for the sole benefit of the employees of the Company.

Samuel James Waring, John William Waring, Samuel James Waring, the younger, and James Elston Waring, were some of the original promoters of the Company in 1895, and amongst the vendors to the Company of the business of S. J. Waring and Sons, Limited, and subsequently of the business of Gillo and Co., and as such participated in the purchase price paid by the Company in the proportions following: Samuel James Waring, 4'07 per cent.; John William Waring, 15'91 per cent.; Samuel James Waring, the younger, 34'73 per cent.; and James Elston Waring, 7'18 per cent.

The Company has previously offered for subscription the undermentioned shares, all of which were allotted and paid for at par: In November, 1895, 46,000 £5 Preference shares. In July, 1898, 30,000 £5 Preference shares. In May, 1902, 10,000 £5 Preference shares. In March, 1903, 150,000 £1 Cumulative Ordinary shares.

On the formation of the Company in 1895, a sum of £25,000 and the premiums, amounting to £14,750, payable on the then issue of Debenture Stock and Preference Shares, were paid by the vendors in consideration of an obligation to underwrite the then issue of Debenture Stock and Preference Shares, and to discharge all expenses connected with the registration of the Company and such issue, and on the issue of March, 1903, the Company paid an underwriting commission of 3 1/4th per cent. on the £150,000 shares offered.

The whole of the Debenture Stock now offered has been underwritten by Messrs. Linton, Clarke & Co., by the Contract No. 10, before referred to, and by which contract that firm also agree to act as brokers for the consideration and on the terms therein mentioned.

The Company pay the expenses of and incidental to the present issue, including brokerage of one-half per cent. on Debenture Stock and 3d. per share on the Cumulative Ordinary shares on all allotments made in respect of applications bearing brokers' stamps.

Copies of the audited balance-sheet of the Company, the memorandum, and Articles of Association, the trust deeds securing the debenture stock, the certificate of Messrs. Franklin, Wild, and Co., the above-mentioned contracts and the underwriting letters, can be seen at the offices of the solicitors, between ten a.m. and four p.m. whilst the subscription lists remain open.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full by post, and when the amount of stock allotted is less than that applied for the available balance will be appropriated for the payment due on allotment, and any excess will be returned by post to the applicant.

Interest at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum will be charged on all overdue instalments. Failure to pay the amount due on allotment or of the instalment when due will render the stock or shares and all amounts paid thereon liable to forfeiture.

Application must be made on the form accompanying the prospectus or appended to the newspaper advertisement, and forwarded to the Bankers of the Company with the amount payable on application.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from the bankers and brokers, or at the offices of the Company.

Dated 4th July, 1905 181 Oxford Street, London.

No.

WARING & GILLOW, LIMITED.

Form of Application for Cumulative Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

To the Director of WARING & GILLOW, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Having paid the sum of £..... being a Deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on 7 per cent. Cumulative Ordinary Shares of £1 each of the above-named Company, I request you to allot me the same upon the terms and subject to the conditions of the Company's Prospectus, dated 4th July, 1905, and the Articles of Association. And I hereby agree to accept the same or any less number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the further instalments as provided by the said Prospectus, and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Ordinary Shares.

Ordinary Signature

Name in full (Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

(Individuals not Firms).

Address (in full)

.....

Profession or Business

Date....., 1905

Note.—Please write very distinctly.

All Cheques should be made payable to THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED, or BANK OF LIVERPOOL, LIMITED.

No.

WARING & GILLOW, LIMITED.

Form of Application for 4 1/2 per cent. Irredeemable Mortgage Debenture Stock.

To the Directors of WARING & GILLOW, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Having paid the sum of £..... being a deposit of Ten per cent. on application for £..... 4 1/2 per cent. Irredeemable Mortgage Debenture Stock of Waring & Gillo, Limited, I request you to allot to me that amount of such Debenture Stock upon the terms of the Prospectus dated 4th July, 1905, and I agree to accept the same, or any smaller amount that may be allotted to me and I agree to pay the further instalments at the dates specified in the Prospectus, and I authorise you to procure me to be registered as the Transferee and holder of the said Debenture Stock.

Name (in full)

(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address (in full)

Description

Signature

Date....., 1905

Note.—Please write very distinctly.

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